

THE U. F. A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE UNITED FARMERS of ALBERTA

Vol. III.

CALGARY, ALBERTA, FEBRUARY 1, 1924

No. 3

The Most Memorable of All Conventions

By J. P. WATSON, Chinook

The U. F. A. Convention of 1924 so far surpasses previous Conventions, viewed from any angle, that comparisons are an utter impossibility. The tone from the outset was high, and the debating classic.

According to current gossip the movement was hors de combat. The meeting in Edmonton, it was said, was to be held merely to perform certain obsequies. The remnant of partyism took its stand, hat in hand, waiting for the cortege to pass. But, ah! for the bad habit of looking too intently upon appearances. Where death was predicated there was found only a mighty, throbbing life. A fraternal delegate expressed the feeling of the delegates very nicely when he referred to the U. F. A. as "a very lively corpse."

FULL AND FREE DISCUSSION

Was there ever a Convention in the memory of the oldest "Convention-goer" which got down so deliberately to the

work in hand? Was ever previous Convention so tolerant, or so jealous as a whole for the rights of full and free discussion? Can one recall a time when delegates manifested so much real intelligence—not in spasmodic flashes, but preponderating in all the discussions from start to finish?

Is it any wonder that our farm people are proud today of their organization? From that historic gathering in Edmonton has emanated hope and courage in great degree. The power of a new-found faith is already sweeping in endless waves across the prairies from Local to Local, refreshing our rural life like summer showers.

BANKING DEBATE IN BOLD RELIEF

Space is not available for a detailed statement of the many activities. Some things stand out, however, in bold relief, and the debate on banking, for instance, will live long
(Continued on page 8)



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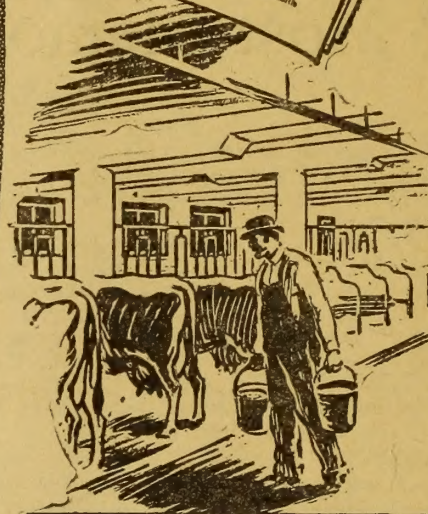
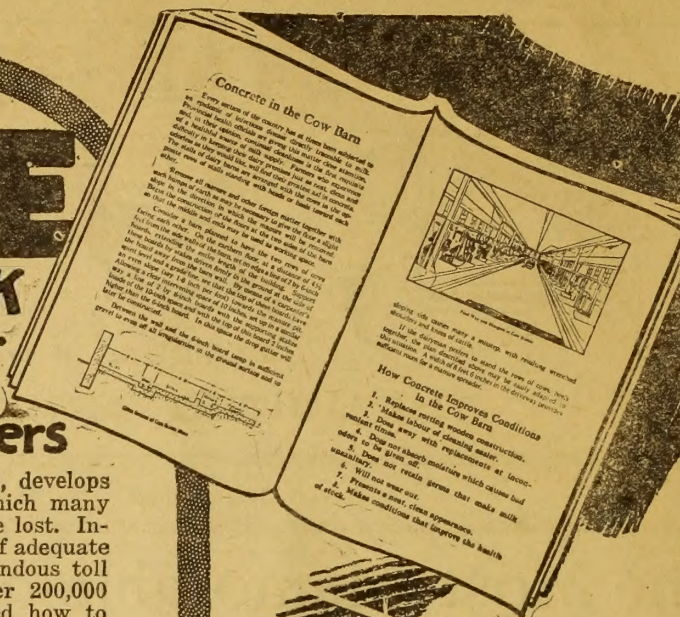
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Ex-Officio

Mrs. Jean Field, Kinuso. Mrs. F. E. Wyman, Baintree.

EDITORIAL

THE CONVENTION

The proceedings at this year's Convention could not be more accurately epitomized, and the spirit and tone of the Convention could not be more vividly expressed, than they are in the brief retrospective sketch by J. P. Watson, of Chinook, one of the delegates, which is published on the front page of this issue. In tolerance, in concentration upon the business in hand, in the determination of the delegates to allow fair play for every argument and for every point of view, and at the same time to present a united front in the presence of a common enemy, the Convention of 1924 surpassed all its predecessors. Farmers, as Mr. Watson points out, are "learning to train their guns on their enemies—not on each other."

* * *

In order that members throughout the Province might receive as complete a report as possible of the proceedings at the Annual Convention, delegates by unanimous vote passed a resolution to the effect that "the excess over the pool rate be used to pay the expense of a larger edition of 'The U. F. A.'"

The vote of the Convention has made possible the pub-

lication of a special Convention Number, the excess over the pool rate, \$194.80, proving adequate to meet a fair proportion, though not the whole of the additional cost involved. As complete a report as possible is given of the principal debates and of the other features of the Convention. The general account of proceedings cannot, unfortunately, be completed in the current issue, and publication of a number of important reports is also necessarily postponed.

* * *

In choosing Robert Gardiner, the Federal member for Medicine Hat, to act as Convention chairman, the delegates made no mistake. Under his control proceedings were conducted with dignity, and business disposed of as rapidly as it could be disposed of, with due regard to the necessities of free and open debate. Mr. Gardiner's success was due in no small measure to the fact that every delegate on the floor retained complete confidence in his fairness and in his impartiality as chairman.

* * *

During the past few days we have received from correspondents a number of letters in which the Convention is discussed in a constructive way, and we greatly regret that it is not possible to publish any of them in this issue. Publication of much valuable material received from Locals and District Associations, relative to the progress of the drives, is also necessarily postponed. All reports indicate that the drive is gaining in momentum. "Talk about farmers giving up the organization," writes the president of Greenwoodville Local (and his letter is typical of many others) "well, I guess not! Never before was such determination, written in the faces of our local workers as they faced thirty below weather and overcame all obstacles in order to bring our membership up to strength."

* * *

The Convention adopted a resolution in the following terms:

"That in the opinion of this Convention, the membership drives staged by many Locals and District Associations during the last two months, have been so successful that their continuance during the remainder of the winter, and throughout the year, is greatly to be desired in the interests of the organization;

"And that this Convention recommend that this effort be sustained."

* * *

The Convention itself has apparently given an impetus to Local activity everywhere. While it is not possible for the moment to give to Local news the space which it deserves, we trust that Local secretaries and the membership generally will continue to place at our disposal information upon their winter activities, for use as opportunity occurs.

* * *

The Liberal organizer for the Province spent much of his time during Convention week as a spectator among the visitors at the rear of the hall. No doubt he was duly impressed by the farmers' original way of conducting the obsequies. R. B. Bennett also paid a short visit.

* * *

The Calgary Herald is calling attention to the seriousness of the taxation problem. The heaviest burden of taxation upon the people of the West, is the burden of tariff taxation. We trust that the Herald will direct its main effort to the lightening of this burden.

* * *

Any conference of interests concerned in the settlement of the harbor dues question at Vancouver, if such a conference take place, should be constituted in a regular way by the Governments and the business interests concerned. More satisfactory results may be expected from such a conference than from any informal conference instituted by members of Parliament.

* * *

The Edmonton Bulletin remarks that there is "reason why the head of the U. F. A. should also be chairman of the directors of the Wheat Pool," and adds, "The Pool is the child of the organization, and the U. F. A. will be held responsible for its conduct and results in any case."

The United Farmers of Alberta in Sixteenth Annual Convention

Concentration Upon a Few Subjects of Outstanding Importance Feature of Business Sessions in Edmonton This Year

With approximately 500 delegates in attendance, the Sixteenth Annual Convention of the United Farmers of Alberta was held in the G. W. V. A. Memorial Hall, Edmonton, from January 15th to 18th. Concentration in debate upon a few subjects of outstanding importance, formed one of the features of this year's Convention. Fewer than a hundred resolutions were discussed, as compared with two or three times as many in some former years. The resolutions on credit and finance and banking called forth one of the strongest debates. The consideration of practical measures to be taken to assure the development of co-operative marketing in all the products of the farm, formed one of the main points of interest in the Convention. Statements presented to the Convention showed that the membership of the association was 11,726 at the end of November last, and that dues since received for 1923, had raised the total to considerably more than 14,200. Later figures show an increase to 14,466.

Promptly at 10 o'clock on the morning of January 15th, President Wood called the Convention to order. After the singing of "O, Canada," by the assembled delegates, Rev. G. A. Clarke of Edmonton pronounced the invocation, and addresses of welcome were delivered by Lieutenant-Governor Brett and Mayor Blatchford. Robert Gardiner, M.P., was then elected chairman, and he was assisted throughout the Convention by a number of others elected by the delegates from each Federal Constituency, Messrs. W. J. Jackman, E. J. Garland, M.P., S. S. Sears, and H. MacKenzie being called upon to take the chair as occasion arose. H. E. G. H. Scholefield, the Vice-president, acted as Convention Secretary.

Convention Committees.

The following Convention committees were elected: Order of Business, S. Lunn, A. F. Aitken, C. Jensen; Resolutions, A. R. Brown, H. C. McDaniel, C. H. MacFarquhar; Credentials, J. C. Buckley, M. L.A., G. E. Roose, C. H. Harris; Redrafting, W. J. Jackman, John Slattery, G. L. Carpenter.

President Wood then delivered his annual address, which is published elsewhere in this issue. The address was adopted, and Mrs. M. L. Sears, president of the U.F.W.A., next addressed the Convention, presenting a vision of the future possibilities of the organization, of what can and will be accomplished in future years.

"In addressing this Convention today," said Mrs. M. L. Sears, "I should like to present to all our members a vision of what may be accomplished by our organization—of what we can and will accomplish in years to come, in association with others, by establishing our industry and our citizenship upon the firm and enduring basis of co-operation in all our activities as farmers and as farm women.

"Let us consider that, at a Convention to be held a few years hence, we are reviewing the past history of a successful co-operative movement, that we are

able to see in perspective the situation as it is in 1923—the Wheat Pool in its early stages, and its subsequent development; the Cattle Pool of 1923, and its later expansion; the progress which a few years will have made possible in the co-operative marketing of other products of the farm. And let us consider also the progress which, in the course of a number of years, will have been made, we hope, in the development of the qualities of citizenship, both in a local sense and in the larger affairs of our Province, our country and the world."

Mrs. Sears reviewed the situation of the U. F. A. at the end of 1923, in retrospect from the standpoint of a future Convention.

"We had set our feet upon the highway," she said. "We had sent representatives to the Dominion Parliament. We had elected a Farmer Government. 'Too much power', said the politician. 'Too much power', said the Liberals and Conservatives. 'We must lay them low'. They had succeeded earlier in Ontario (for the time being only) and were confident of success here.

United Against the U. F. A.

"Strange that though they were all willing to knife each other in the back to gain more power for themselves, they all united to destroy the leaders of our organization and Government. Not openly! Oh, no! They were crafty enough to know that would destroy their own ends. Quietly and insidiously, sowing suspicion here, forming prejudice there, printing misstatements, insinuations, exaggerations, the undermining of confidence in farmer organizations was fostered. The indifference of many of the members to the welfare of the group was fertile soil for this propaganda.

"The strange thing is that everyone knew that dissension and extravagance had marked every other Government, yet the Farmer Government was expected to carry on without a mistake, lessening taxation, reducing debt, changing old laws, enacting new ones according to the varying ideas of a thousand and one individuals, no two in agreement."

Going on to deal with co-operative marketing, and its development since 1923, Mrs. Sears' retrospect indicated that manifold benefits from this concentration of forces in marketing had been received; the price of wheat was no longer controlled by speculation, but negotiated by the Pool; mills and steamship lines were owned by the Pool; the high rate of interest on the enormous sums of money borrowed to operate the Pool was saved through the Producers' Bank.

A cattle Pool no less successful than the Wheat Pool, and a co-operative marketing agency to handle poultry and eggs, had become all embracing in their scope.

Mrs. Sears went on to indicate lines of future progress in matters of public health, home building, and discussed the special contribution which women might make to the development of a balanced civilization.

President Presents Junior Report

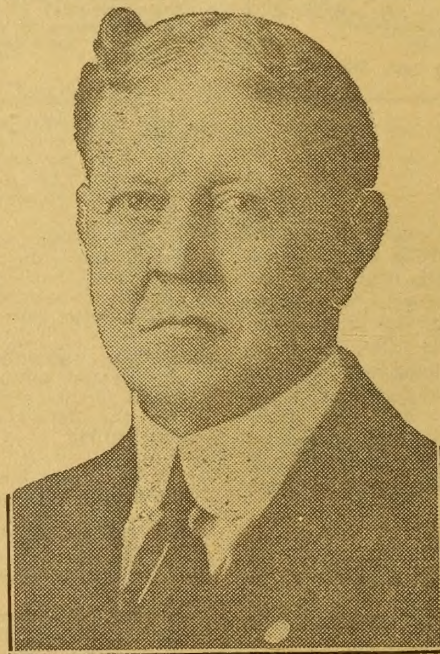
The report of the Junior Branch was presented by the president of the junior organization, Donald Cameron, Junior, and the Convention expressed its appreciation of this very able presentation of the work of the Juniors. Attention was called to the fact that the Junior Branch report was presented this year, for the first time in the history of the U.F.A., by the Junior president.

Following the report of the Board of Directors, John W. Ward, Secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, presented his report for the year.

Reception of the report of the Marketing Committee, and the consideration of the report of the Newspaper Committee and the Financial Statement, occupied a considerable part of the Tuesday afternoon session. Reports on resolutions dealing with Federal and Provincial matters were also received.

Financial Statements.

The revenue statement, as at November 30th, 1923, showed a total revenue for the eleven months of \$33,380.20, of which \$31,176.63 was received in payment of dues and donations, while the balance comprised interest, Convention surplus, mimeographing work done for Locals and miscellaneous items. The statement showed that after paying the Association's expenses for the period, and setting aside a reserve of \$1,445.35 to provide for the possible loss of part of the funds on deposit in the Home Bank at the time of its suspension, there remained a surplus of \$1,505.45. The balance sheet showed assets—Cash, Victory bonds and other securities, various accounts receivable and inventories of



H. E. G. H. SCHOLEFIELD
Re-elected Vice-President

(Continued on page 8)

Convention Rejects Proposal to Establish Bank Owned by Alberta Government

Vigorous Debate Precedes Action by Annual Convention Upon Resolution Calling Upon Provincial Government to Make Application for Dominion Charter

After occupying the foreground in debate for a period of almost two days, during which advocates and opponents of the plan to establish a chartered bank owned and controlled by the Alberta Government, were heard with close attention by delegates and visitors who filled the G. W. V. A. Memorial Hall, the proposal was defeated on Thursday afternoon, January 17th, by an overwhelming majority of the delegates attending the Annual Convention. Prior to the vote on the main resolution, the Convention voted down by a substantial majority a substitute motion which called upon the Central Board of the U. F. A. to appoint a committee to co-operate with a committee of the Provincial Government, and to prepare a report on this subject to be submitted to the next Annual Convention. The substitute motion was introduced by George Bevington, and its adoption moved from the floor of the Convention by A. L. Blue of Rosyth. After this had been defeated the main resolution received a very small number of votes.

Prior to the opening of the discussion, a report from the Provincial Government, dealing with the banking resolution passed by last year's Convention, was presented, the Government expressing the opinion that "a Provincial bank cannot deal with the solution of financial reform in a fundamental way," and that "the solution must be founded on a Dominion basis." This report, which was read during the Tuesday evening session by Mr. Scholefield, was in full as follows:

The Government's Report

"Without referring in detail to the clauses of the Provincial Bank resolution, passed at the last Convention, in effect it asks:

"That the Provincial Government secure a charter under the Dominion Bank Act and establish a Provincial Bank with all the rights and privileges granted by that act, including the issue of paper money."

"In principle this resolution differs very materially from other resolutions passed by Conventions in recent years on the subject of banking.

"In 1919 this Convention went on record as favoring the establishment in the Province of a system of small community banks under Provincial regulation.

"In 1920 the resolution endorsed the idea of the extension of the Rural Credit Society.

"In 1921 the Convention went on record as in favor of the nationalization of the banking and credit system.

"The scheme embodied in each of these resolutions has its exponents and supporters in the Province today among those who have directed their attention to the extremely difficult and involved question of financial and banking reform.

Should Be Demonstrated

"Having regard to these differences of opinion, before undertaking any such

far-reaching financial venture as a Government enterprise, especially at a time when the Province is passing through such an extreme economic and financial crisis, both with respect to private and governmental conditions, the Government might reasonably expect that it should be demonstrated in a practical way, apart from mere theoretical discussion, and supported by some well thought out and detailed scheme, that such an enterprise would very substantially improve the economic condition of the people of the Province; that it would extend credit beyond what is now available and to those to whom it is not now available and at a lower cost, and furthermore, being mindful that any failure would bring serious consequences to the rate-payers of this Province, there should be a clear definition of the amount of capital that would be required—not merely to start in a small way—but to carry such enterprise to its logical conclusion to enable it to accomplish what is expected of it in competition with the chartered banks of the Province as well as the other sources of money for the purpose of making loans.

"In the absence of any such plan the Government has given the resolution careful thought and consideration and is of the opinion that neither the difficulties and weaknesses nor the alleged advantage of the proposal have been sufficiently considered.

"The legal difficulties involved in such a scheme are very considerable. For example, without going into detail, how clauses five and six of the resolution which require control by the Government through a commission could possibly be worked out in view of clauses eleven and twenty of the new Dominion Act which defines the qualifications of the controlling board, the directors as 'bona-fide subscribers for stock for and on his behalf to become the absolute and sole owner in his individual right of such stock and not as trustee or in the right of another, the amount of the paid-up value of stock being from \$3,000 to \$5,000, depending on capitalization.'

"Furthermore, the Government in such an enterprise would be in the anomalous position of one governmental body attempting to administer a business with respect to which, by the British North America Act, there is given to another governmental body, possibly differing widely from it politically and otherwise, the exclusive right, not only to make laws but also to enact regulations covering the conduct of the business, and it is expected, as a result of the Home Bank failure, the right to a much closer audit and investigation.

Rediscounting Privileges

"The Government believes that in the public discussion of the resolution heretofore too much reliance has been placed on the rediscounting privileges of such a bank so as to create an impression that its loaning power may be vastly in-

creased by the rediscounting of its securities. The 1923 amendments to the Finance Act provide:

"Section 3. That the Minister may request the trustees of the Central Gold Reserves to make valuation of and recommendation as to the amount which, in the judgment of the trustees, may properly be advanced on any securities offered in pledge under this act.

"Section 5. Promissory notes accepted as pledge shall mature not later than six months from the time at which they are pledged, and,

"Section 6. All advances shall be for a period not exceeding one year.

"It must be evident from these amendments that the Dominion Government may provide a very effective regulation of the privileges of discount. Moreover, such provision, together with the necessity for a safe and stable administration, must require that loans be only made on substantial security, and it is therefore not clear how a Provincial Bank can offer credit facilities beyond what is now available from the chartered banks.

"The Government believes that a Provincial Bank cannot deal with the question of financial reform in a fundamental way and the solution must be founded on a Dominion basis. Any advantage which is attributed to a Provincial Bank by its exponents may be brought about by the regulation of the present chartered banks.

Long Term Credit Scheme

"The Government views with approval the investigation now being held by the Dominion Government in the matter of intermediate and long term credits. The Provincial Government has intimated its readiness to co-operate in working out reform in this field and has been giving the matter careful consideration. The Government believes at this time and under present conditions, it can make its best contribution by directing its attention and its efforts to provision for long term rural credits, and is hopeful that in the very near future, whatever may result from the present Dominion enquiry, it will be able to bring into effect to some extent at least a practical long term credit scheme."

The Main Resolution

Following the reception of the Government report, a resolution drafted by a committee of delegates interested in the banking resolutions, was read to the Convention, and adoption moved and seconded. The resolution read:

"Whereas, we have recently been given further proof of the fact that banking institutions owned and controlled by private enterprise are not conducted in the interest of the public, and,

"Whereas, the U. F. A. has been pressing the Alberta Government to establish a Provincial bank in years past;

"Therefore be it resolved, that we go on record as favoring the establishment of a chartered bank, owned and controlled by the Provincial Government, and,

(Continued on page 17)

Committee of Seven Will Survey Field of Co-operative Marketing

Convention Asks Executive to Appoint Committee With Power to Organize Different Commodities—Mr. Brownlee Believes Three Main Pools Will Meet Alberta's Needs

Judging by the enthusiastic support given by the Annual Convention to proposals looking to the extension of the field of co-operative marketing to all the products of the farm, by the thoughtful consideration given to this subject both in the Convention and at the luncheon addressed by Mr. Brownlee during Convention week, and by the resolutions on this subject adopted by the Convention, the year 1924 promises to mark important new advances by the farmers of Alberta in their efforts to solve the difficult but pressingly important problems of marketing.

It was obviously the opinion of the Convention that the U. F. A., which has been the prime mover in all co-operative enterprise, should continue to use the machinery which it has built up, for the purpose of developing marketing organizations, and that as close co-operation and co-ordination as possible should be maintained at all times between the association and the undertakings, including the Wheat Pool, launched mainly through the instrumentality of the association or under its auspices.

Two Main Resolutions

The subject of co-operative marketing in general, apart from the Wheat Pool, was dealt with in two resolutions passed by the Convention, and in a resolution passed by the U. F. W. A. Convention and afterwards endorsed by the main Convention. All were adopted unanimously. In one of these the Convention asked the Executive of the U. F. A. "to appoint a committee of seven to survey the field of co-operative marketing, with power to organize the different commodities under the Co-operative Marketing system." Another resolution, which was submitted by the Buffalo Lake Local, was in the following terms:

Whereas, the livestock industry of Alberta is now and will continue to be of first importance to agriculture, and,

Whereas, it is imperative that the cost of production of farm products must be reduced, and,

Whereas, the cost of food stuffs to the workers must be reduced, and,

Whereas, it has been found that the co-operative marketing of livestock is the economical way of marketing by eliminating unnecessary middlemen, and,

Whereas, there are now several livestock shipping associations in the Province;

Therefore be it resolved, that this Convention go on record urging all existing livestock shipping associations to get together and draft a uniform contract to be used in the entire Province and to agree on putting all shipments through one channel of trade, and further,

That this Convention urge all U. F. A. Locals not now organized for co-operative shipping of stock to use their influence to this end. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the U. F. M. and the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association.

Delegates Confer at Luncheon

The action of the U. F. W. A. on co-operative marketing will be dealt with in a later issue.

The resolutions were presented to the Convention on Friday, following important conferences of delegates and others, held in the city of Edmonton. Probably the most largely attended gathering of

EGG AND POULTRY POOL FIRST?

The committee of seven called for in the above resolution is not yet complete. The members who have been appointed have ascertained after meetings with the Provincial Government and the Egg and Poultry Marketing Service that immediate action on a large scale can be taken in respect to these commodities, and that the Service can be placed on a co-operative pool basis as soon as the method of incorporation has been decided on. A Provisional Board will be appointed to confer with the management of the Service. It is hoped that a definite announcement in regard to this matter can be made in "The U.F.A." at an early date.

farmers, apart from the attendance at the main Convention, held during the whole period of Convention week, took place on Friday noon, at a luncheon at which Mr. Brownlee outlined briefly the conclusions reached by himself and Mr. Reid, after an inquiry, in Alberta and in a number of States south of the international boundary, into the problems of co-operative marketing. The dining room which had been engaged for the occasion proved inadequate to accommodate at luncheon more than half of the delegates who wished to attend, but those who were excluded from the luncheon returned in time to hear the address, and most of them found standing room, about 125 persons in all being present. S. S. Sears, who was in the chair, explained that the arrangements had originally been made by a group interested in promoting co-operative marketing enterprise.

Three Main Pools

Mr. Brownlee stated that after a study of the work of co-operative marketing

associations in the Coast States, he had come to the conclusion that in Alberta the marketing problem could best be worked out by three main pools. The Wheat Pool was rapidly growing, and in his opinion an Oat Pool would be a logical development, bearing a share of the expense of the whole Pool, but having a complete and separate staff for the selling end of the business. Then the Livestock Pool of the U. G. G. was being developed in a favorable manner. Owing to the conditions under which livestock is marketed, he thought that marketing should be on the basis of the three Western Provinces. Other commodities, such as eggs, poultry, cream, hay, potatoes, were not developed to a sufficient degree at present to bear the overhead of individual pools for each, and one main organization should be set up, which would make a complete survey of the Province and have power to organize such commodities as the survey indicated had sufficient volume to justify organization. Mr. Brownlee declared that the Government was thoroughly interested, and offered every assistance.

Speaking of the inquiry last year in the Coast States, Mr. Brownlee said that he found every farm product there highly specialized, and each commodity was in a position to bear its overhead expense. As many as 45,000 hens were kept on 40 acres of land in some instances. In Northern Coast States a beginning was being made in the marketing of potatoes, tomatoes, etc., through one co-operative organization.

Mr. Brownlee was followed by N. S. Smith, M.L.A. of Olds, who spoke on the development of co-operative creameries.

Members Who Were Always on the Firing Line at Ottawa

McMaster Pays High Tribute to Courage and Disinterested Service of Alberta Members

"I have been associated with the Alberta members at Ottawa, and judging the men and women of Alberta by their representatives in Parliament, I have conceived a very high opinion of the people of this Province," declared Andrew McMaster, M.P. for Brome, in the course of his address at the Annual Convention.

"I can tell Premier Oliver," said Mr. McMaster, "that the members from Alberta were always on the firing line, courageously advocating the views of those men and women who sent them to Ottawa. They were free members of Parliament, courageously doing their duty as they conceived it. Farmers of the Western Prairies make the best shock troops against the castles of privilege."

With reference to the fight on his resolution, stipulating that members of the Government should not be distracted by directorates in private corporations, whose interests might conflict with the ministers' public duties, Mr. McMaster

said, "If ever a boy needed a friend, I needed one then. I shall never forget the support which the members from Alberta gave me then, and two of the strongest speeches were from the members for the two Calgary constituencies."

Co-operate In Own Way.

The member for Brome said he had a great admiration for the United Farmers of Alberta because they had been able to send to Parliament men responsible to no one but their own consciences and the people who sent them there. "I am not here to advocate any change in your political machinery," he added, "but to ask that you co-operate in your own way with all who are seeking similar ends."

Referring to the Committee of Inquiry into Agricultural Conditions, of which he was chairman, Mr. McMaster said, "I had the honor to be associated with your distinguished chairman (Robert Gardiner), and there was no one who did better work, or was more on his job than he."

The Women's Convention in Retrospect

By MISS J. B. KIDD, Provincial Secretary

For the tenth time the Alberta Farm Women have gathered from the valleys of the Peace, the Red Deer, the Battle and the Bow and from all the intervening stretches of prairie, brush land, timber and rolling plain, to discuss the problems of their lives, the goal of their ambitions and the heritage of just laws, sane customs and beautiful living which they are determined to leave to the next generation of Alberta citizens. They arose with the dawn, breakfasted from viands prepared by other hands than theirs—an unbelievably joyous adventure—hurried away to exciting shopping expeditions long anticipated, and devoted seven hours each day to earnest discussion of the business of their organization.

And what a variety of subjects the business of that organization presented! Better schools for the boys and girls, more equitable laws for men and women, beautification of the farm home, plans for lending a helping hand to those in greater need than themselves, the care of the mentally unfit, better marketing systems, and the public health. Small wonder that it was thought advisable to ask each of the members of the Government to be present during the discussion of subjects pertaining to his department, and that each found time to linger in the background for a time "to hear what the women were going to talk about next!"

What subject interested the delegates most, these farm women whose lives are a story of sacrifice, of pioneer hardship, of simple living, straight thinking and hard-earned achievement? Some, smarting under legal injustices which had affected their own or their neighbor's home, were intent on legal questions; some, eager that their small Jane, John or Mary and all the Janes, Johns and Marys in the Province should have the

same educational advantages as those provided in other countries (where time has had an opportunity to develop a permanent, if not a progressive, educational policy), discussed with feeling the problems of the little rural school; some, feeling the lack of beauty in our hastily constructed, make-shift prairie homes, eagerly jotted down notes on the culture of small fruits, the most hardy roses, the drought withstanding varieties of currants and raspberries; others, experienced in the hardships of pioneering far from nursing or medical attention, offered their unstinted praise to district and public health nurses; still others, long isolated on a prairie farm, thrilled to hear the romance of the great congress of women from all over the world held in Rome last spring, as described by the Canadian representative. However diversified the primary interests of the delegates, each of the numerous speakers received the compliment of an audience earnestly attentive, each opportunity for discussion was eagerly seized upon.

The Ninth Annual Convention of the United Farm Women of Alberta has passed into history, but it is an event which will be long remembered by all who participated. It will be remembered by the delegates because it represented a change in lives all too monotonous, because it made the farm women's organization a functioning, living, tangible thing. It will be remembered by the leaders of the organization as a measure of realization of long desired but slowly attained success. It will be remembered by the public as a revelation of the interests and aspirations of that person who is seldom in the public eye, but to whom the public owes much, the Alberta farm woman.

The report of the U. F. W. A. Convention will be continued in the mid-February issue of "The U. F. A."

Expenses of Plebiscite \$120,000 Less Than Provincial Election

Premier Greenfield Corrects Statement Made in Address to the U. F. A. Convention

Editor, "The U. F. A."

In the address made by myself to the U. F. A. Convention in Edmonton, I inadvertently made the statement that the Plebiscite held on November 5th last cost the people of the Province approximately \$130,000.00, and that the previous Plebiscite, held under the auspices of the former Provincial Government, cost the people of the Province approximately \$250,000.00.

The comparison should have been given as follows:

Cost of Provincial election in 1921	\$250,000.00
Cost of Plebiscite, November 5th, 1923	130,000.00

Difference \$120,000.00

Comparison was given in round figures.

Total vote cast in 1921 election 175,980

Total vote cast in 1923 Plebiscite 169,613

Yours very truly,

H. GREENFIELD.

PLEASE SEND ADDRESS

Will Mr. Francis King, who wrote a letter to the editor recently dealing with C. P. R. land contracts, kindly forward his post office address?



U. F. W. A. BOARD FOR 1924

Back row, left to right: Mrs. E. H. Ethridge, Rossington (West Edmonton, South); Mrs. A. E. Postans, Heath (Battle River); Mrs. R. Clarke Fraser, Rollinson (Medicine Hat); Mrs. E. Hallum, Sedgewick (Victoria); Mrs. A. B. Claypool, Swallow (Bow River); Mrs. W. Ross, Millet (Strathcona); Mrs. H. E. G. H. Scholefield, Crossfield (East Calgary); Mrs. R. Price, Stettler (Red Deer); Mrs. A. H. Warr, Waskatenau (East Edmonton).

Front row, left to right: Mrs. C. Jensen, Magrath (Lethbridge); Miss J. B. Kidd, Calgary, Secretary; Mrs. F. E. Wyman, Baintree, 1st Vice-President; Mrs. R. B. Gunn, New Lindsay, President; Mrs. Jean Field, Kinuso, 2nd Vice-President; Mrs. M. L. Sears, Nanton (MacLeod); Mrs. H. W. Wood, Carstairs (West Calgary).

THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA IN SIXTEENTH CONVENTION

(Continued from page 4)

supplies and furniture, totalling \$13,094.70. Against this are liabilities amounting to \$11,559.53. These include the Home Bank account reserve, a loan of \$2,500 from the Royal Bank, \$4,020.80 owing to the United Grain Growers, Limited, on loan and current account, and sundry trust accounts and accounts payable.

No Salary from U. F. A.

The discussion on the financial statements revealed the fact that President Wood has declined to accept any salary from the Association, since his appointment to the chairmanship of the Wheat Pool.

No mover could be found for a number of the Constitutional amendments which had been sent in for consideration. By a rather close vote a resolution sent in by the Victoria Federal Constituency Association, suggesting an important change in the method of collecting dues to the various branches of the organization, was carried. This asked the Central Executive to consider the advisability of "making district associations an integral part of our movement, having fees collected in full with a system of rebate of a certain sum back to the district associations for their maintenance in accordance with their paid-up membership."

A resolution calling for the reduction of the membership fee to \$1.50 was moved by Rice Sheppard, who made reference to certain suggestions for the reorganization of the Association which had been published in the daily press, under his name. Some discussion took place on the resolution, which was defeated, only four votes being recorded in its favor.

Year's Membership Whenever Paid.

By the adoption of a Constitutional amendment from the Cochrane Provincial Constituency Association, the membership fee will in future give title to one year's membership in the Association from the time at which it is paid, instead of for the calendar year. If members become in arrears, it was suggested that whenever dues were paid, the period covered should date back to the due date, whether this were in February, June or November, or any other month in the year.

Wm. Irvine Speaks on Organization.

The address on the principles of group organization, delivered by William Irvine, M.P., at the opening of the Tuesday evening session, was undoubtedly one of the notable features of the Convention. Tracing the development of society from its primitive forms to the complex economic organization of today, and showing that at all times economic interests have formed the basis of political grouping, and the basis of action in parliaments and legislatures, Mr. Irvine contended that a frank recognition of these facts must form the basis of future organization for political, as well as for other purposes. "Political policy" said he, "is the voice of your industrial necessity."

By lucid and forceful exposition of a difficult theme, and by his caustic and humorous discussion of the efforts recently made in Alberta to resuscitate the political parties, Mr. Irvine won from the audience a high tribute of approval, and

at the close of his address delegates expressed their appreciation by a standing vote of thanks, by cheers, and by singing. The speaker declared that while he had been informed that the farmers' movement was sick, he had been unable to find any signs of such a condition in this Convention. But, nevertheless, forty per cent. inside the Wheat Pool and sixty per cent. outside was not enough. The U.F.A. had another child, the Alberta Government. "You may think it is a healthy child," he said, "but that it is developing some characteristics you do not like. What can you expect? It is your child. You took these men from the plow and gave them very difficult tasks. They have done well. I believe they are carrying on the most honest and efficient Government that ever held the reins of power in Alberta. Stand by them! Stick to them!"

Many delegates have requested that Mr. Irvine's address should be published in full in this paper, and it was hoped that at least an adequate synopsis could be given in the current number. This, however, has been found impossible, owing to pressure of other matter directly related to the deliberations and decisions of the Convention. A verbatim report of the speech was taken, with a view to its publication as soon as opportunity occurs.

No reference to the address was made in the Edmonton papers, and it was unfortunate that the broadcasting equipment, which was available later in the evening, was not in operation while this address was being delivered, owing to difficulties at the plant.

The debate on the banking resolution, of which as detailed an account as possible is published in this issue, commenced on Tuesday evening and was adjourned at a late hour.

Premier Oliver on Western Freight Rates.

A very able presentation of the case for the reduction of rates on freight between Alberta and British Columbia points, to equality with the rates between this Province and points eastward, was made by Premier Oliver of British Columbia at 10 o'clock on Wednesday morning. Premier Oliver based his case largely upon the terms under which British Columbia consented to enter Confederation, and charged that the imposition of discriminatory rates was a breach of faith on the part of the Federal authorities.

Premier Oliver answered a number of questions from the floor, on matters arising out of his address. One delegate wished to know how the farmers of Alberta could have assurance that if rates were reduced, the farmers would receive the full benefit of the reduction. "If they don't," was the reply, "they are turning too much attention to farming, and not enough to business."

A vote of thanks to the visiting Premier was carried.

Nominations for President.

Nominations for president were called for at the customary hour—noon on Wednesday—and the following nominations were received: H. W. Wood, Carstairs; George Bevington, Winterburn; H. E. G. H. Scholefield, Crossfield; C. H. Harris, Oyen; S. Lunn, Pincher Creek; W. J. Jackman, Bremner. A motion that each candidate be asked to state his policy for the coming year was adopted.

Mr. Scholefield withdrew his name, saying that the U. F. A. had one man

who had been president for many years and who had done magnificent work for the Association, a statement which was received with general cheers. Mr. Lunn also withdrew, thus leaving four names to go on the ballot paper.

Premier Greenfield Speaks.

Owing to the train on which he returned from Ottawa having been delayed, Premier Greenfield was unable to address the Convention on the opening day. He spoke at two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, dealing with the concerted attacks which have been made upon the Government by the political parties, and with certain misrepresentation in the press. The cheers which punctuated his address, and the ovation which he received at its conclusion, left no doubt of the opinion of the Convention upon the nature of the recent campaign. The chief Liberal organizer, Mr. Fisher, was an interested observer among the visitors near the rear of the hall.

(Continued on page 18)

THE MOST MEMORABLE OF ALL CONVENTIONS

(Continued from page 1)

in the memory of the delegates, and will prove a fruitful theme for discussion in many quarters in the days to come. The problem was not shelved. Neither was it deemed insoluble. But the way of attainment was the vexed question. The great hope in this seeming impasse lies in the fact that within the ranks of our own movement are the men who will ultimately solve the problem.

The important question of freight rates was placed before the Convention by Premier Oliver, of B. C. The delegates gave a qualified endorsement of the endeavor to equalize these Western rates, the proviso being the necessity of working also to safeguard the producer in the event of equalization.

A ROLAND FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA'S OLIVER

Premier Oliver injected a little bit of politics into the discussion when he attempted to pose as the real champion of the West, and hinted that the Progressive members had been asleep at the switch. Jos. T. Shaw, of West Calgary, gave British Columbia a Roland for their Oliver when he explained the action of the Alberta members during the fight over the Crow's Nest Pass agreement, and also in quoting from the records of the Commission passages which showed the B. C. representatives in quite another light than that of sole champions of the West. Mr. Shaw's effective come-back will help to heighten the confidence of Alberta farmers in the little group who have been humorously styled "the Twelve Apostles."

FARMERS LEARN LESSONS IN GUNNERY

From certain quarters it was freely hinted that there would be a "fight" on Wheat Pool and other matters. But as an Irishman would express it—"The fight turned up missing." Farmers are learning to train their guns on their enemies—not on each other. The heart-cry of the Convention was "Co-operation, and still more Co-operation." "Don't stop at Wheat Pools," was the prevailing thought, and in this respect omens for the future are auspicious. In fine—if there is one word which will sum up the Convention of 1924 and what it means to the future of Canada, methinks that word is "Brotherhood."

President Wood Reviews Progress of Wheat Pool and Discusses Political Situation in Eighth Annual Address

Success of Pool Will Mean Economic Freedom and Prosperity; Failure Will Mean Economic Slavery and Misery—Mighty Uprising of Party Politicians Collapses, Leaving Only "A Blind Drummer or Two"

Reviewing general developments and conditions growing out of them since our last Convention, the most notable event of the year was the splendid crop harvested throughout the Province. This was supplemented by unusually favorable weather for harvesting and threshing. While there was rather an unusual amount of hail damage, Nature on the whole dealt very kindly with us, and the results should be prosperity and contentment, not only among farmers, but among all classes that are making a legitimate contribution to the economic well-being of the Province. This result, however, if manifest at all, is manifest to a very limited degree. The general level of prices is still too much out of balance to permit of a revival of trade and consequent general prosperity. Confidence in the future has not been restored, but on the contrary the failure of the magnificent crop of the past year to give relief from economic stagnation has added discouragement rather than confidence regarding the future.

On account of financial conditions up to the beginning of harvest, and the press of work in saving the crop from that time until the last of November, our membership was at a lower level at the beginning of December than for several years previous. This is a condition deeply regretted by all, but it is the result of economic causes, which causes are infinitely more regrettable than the actual condition of our membership. The strength of our movement cannot be accurately gauged by the number of paid-up members. To gauge the real strength we must go beyond the results of unavoidable causes to make our survey. This leads us to the investigation of the spirit and harmony of the organization, the sanity of its membership, and the realization of its need by both its members and friends, and the amount of confidence there is that the movement is making progress. I realize that it would be impossible to apply these tests and reach conclusions with mathematical precision, but after making the best analysis possible, I am convinced that, measured by these standards, the organization is stronger today than a year ago.

The Wheat Pool

The most important undertaking of the organization during the year was that of organizing a Wheat Pool. A brief review of this work and the events leading up to it might not be without interest to this Convention.

On December the 9th, 1920, the Canadian Council of Agriculture passed a resolution providing for the appointment of a Wheat Pool

In his Eighth Annual Address, which is published in full in this issue, President Wood reviews past achievements of the United Farmers of Alberta. Measured by the most reliable standards, he declares, the organization is stronger today than it was a year ago. The Alberta farmers "have demonstrated what can be done in the vigor of youth, but not what can be accomplished by the strength of developed maturity." He asks, "Will they go on in that development guided by sanity and wisdom, working, achieving, until their efforts are rewarded by success, or will they retire from the field exhausted by their first effort, grumblingly but submissively to resume the burdens of servitude, hoping that eventually some philanthropic autocracy will lift the burdens from their shoulders and set them free?" The vigorous response of the membership to the call for renewed effort which has been made in many Locals throughout the Province, and the spirit of enthusiasm and determination expressed at the Convention in Edmonton, would appear to indicate that Alberta farmers are preparing to answer these questions in a very positive sense—that they do not intend to turn back, even though they have realized that a complete social transformation cannot be brought about "in a day, a year, or even in a generation."

Committee to be composed of representatives from the four Provincial farmers' organizations and the farmers' companies.

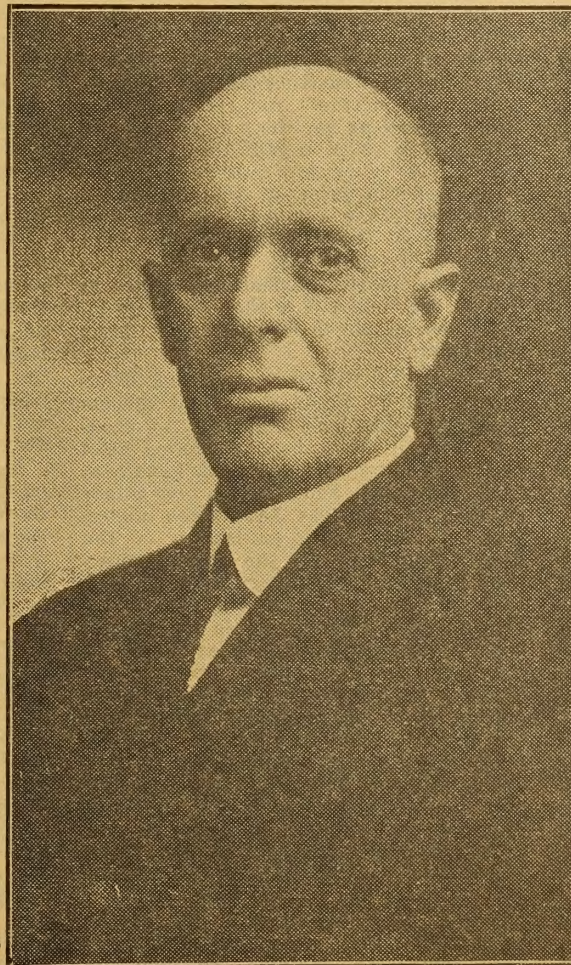
In January, 1921, the U. F. A. Convention passed a resolution asking for "direct selling of commodities through some means to be provided whereby speculation could be eliminated."

In January, 1922, a resolution was passed by the Convention urging the Federal Government "to reinstate the Canadian Wheat Board under the old management with Jas. Stewart as Chairman, this Board to handle the wheat crop of 1922, and to continue to handle the crop until such time as world conditions again become normal."

In January, 1923, the Convention passed two resolutions, one "that we renew our demand for a Wheat Board with as nearly as possible the power vested in the 1919 Board." The other was as follows: "That in the event of failure to secure a Federal Wheat Board, that the Alberta Provincial Government be asked to grant such legislation as will give to the farmers of the Province a Provincial Wheat Board."

A Wheat Pool Committee which was brought into being through the agency of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, held several meetings in 1921 without practical results; but the idea had become firmly fixed in the minds of some that a co-operative system was the only solution of wheat marketing. In the meantime it had become apparent that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to organize a Dominion-wide Pool, at least at that time. So we find the next two U. F. A. Conventions, as a matter of expediency, asking for the reinstatement of the Canadian Wheat Board. We also see by the action of the last U. F. A. Convention, that the idea of Provincial action was beginning to take hold of the minds of the people. Within a week from the time of the collapse of the last effort to get a Wheat Board, the U. F. A. Board met for the purpose of beginning the organization of a Provincial Pool. It is true that the Board of Directors had no direct mandate from the Convention to organize a Provincial contract Pool, but the Convention had officially endorsed Provincial action, and the evidence that the Pool idea was steadily supplementing the idea of a compulsory Board was abundantly manifest. So the Board of Directors had no hesitation in going ahead with the organization of a Pool.

The events that transpired between the time of the U. F. A. Board taking definite action toward the organization of an Alberta



PRESIDENT WOOD

Pool and the creation of a Provisional Board to complete that work, are too well known to require recapitulation here. Suffice it to say that valuable assistance was given by many citizens outside of the U. F. A., and there is no doubt that many citizens who are not farmers are sincerely interested in the success of the undertaking.

On July 4th the U. F. A. Board decided to proceed with the organization of a Provincial Pool, and the Provisional Board of the "Alberta Co-operative Wheat Producers, Ltd.," was created on August 18th. The principal problems before this Board were those of financing, arranging with elevators to handle the grain, securing efficient salesmen, and the inauguration of an accounting system. These were difficult problems and the time was short. Threshing and the marketing of wheat had already begun. Getting the Pool started in time to make a success this season seemed improbable, if not impossible, but with very valuable assistance, the Board was able to deal with all these problems and to get the Pool in actual operation on October 29th, just three months and twenty-four days from the time the U. F. A. Board decided to take action. While from the standpoint of time, Alberta perhaps holds the world's record in the organization of a Wheat Pool, the idea of co-operative selling of wheat has been crystallizing in the minds of the Alberta wheat producers for four years. Four years is a very short time for a movement of such magnitude to develop from an idea to successful operation.

SUCCESS DEPENDS PRIMARILY UPON PRODUCERS

What success the Pool will make this year, and what the final outcome will be, are both unknown at the present time. So far operations have been as successful, both in the amount of grain handled and prices received, as there was reasonable ground to hope for, all things considered. There has been opposition to the Pool, and this opposition has caused confusion, but neither the opposition nor the confusion has been greater than was anticipated. While the opposition has caused confusion, it has also acted as a stimulant, causing determination rather than dismay among the wheat producers. Confidence in the future of this system of selling wheat seems to be growing, and the spirit of loyalty everywhere manifested is remarkable. The future of the enterprise depends primarily on the growers themselves. If they believe in it and are determined to go ahead in a sane, practical business way and make a success of it, nothing can stop them. If they are taking to it simply as a fad, and expecting somebody else to carry it on successfully while they themselves look on, criticizing and fault-finding, it cannot succeed. It will require the united, constructive efforts of all concerned, but with this there is nothing to fear.

It is too early to forecast the details of future development. These details will have to be worked out as the various problems incident to development are faced. Many of these problems will no doubt be serious ones, and will require the very best thought of all, especially those entrusted with the management.

The time of making our drive for membership, or signing up contracts, was inopportune as well as short, and there was little time to perfect organization for such a drive. Under all the

circumstances the results of the drive were all, and even more than all that that could reasonably have been expected. But the acreage signed up is by no means what it should be. This will necessitate another and much more thorough drive before the movement of next year's wheat crop begins. When this drive will take place has not yet been decided; neither have the details of the organization for the drive. But with the membership we have, if thoroughly organized, especially at each local shipping point, the signed-up acreage for next year should be at least 50 per cent. greater than we have at the present. The success of this drive will depend very largely on the effort of the present membership. Each member and each locality should be getting ready now to make the best showing possible when the time comes.

LOCAL ORGANIZATION OF MEMBERS

Will our Alberta wheat pool succeed? This question can be answered only by the Alberta wheat producers. They can make it a success, or they can let it be a failure. It will be easier to do the latter than the former. With united, determined, sane and persistent effort, success will be assured. Without this, only partial success, or complete failure can result. Perhaps the greatest difficulty we will encounter will be at the local shipping points. These shipping points might be classed as the Wheat Pool trouble units. If the Pool wheat can be put into cars and billed to the Pool, the balance of the trouble can be overcome. This can be done, and will be done at every point where the local contract signers get together and determine that they are going to work together, to get it done. By this kind of effort the local contract signers can fully protect the interests and rights of each other as well as get their grain shipped. This will require organization, but my earnest advice is that you do not over-emphasize the form of organization to be adopted, nor encumber it with red tape. You want results rather than elaborate organization. Don't try to make your local organization a house to live in, but make it a shop to work in. Let it be simple in structure, but make it efficient.

During the fifteen years of existence of the U. F. A., many and various academic questions relating to economic reform have been discussed most zealously. Practical questions have also been discussed, and not a few minor practical enterprises have been undertaken. But the organization of the Wheat Pool is by far the greatest practical enterprise yet inaugurated. To succeed in this enterprise will justify our fifteen years' efforts, while to fail will largely discredit our whole existence. In the past we have been perhaps too prone to fix our eyes on the far-off glimmering light of academic things, and too much inclined to overlook the nearby blazing light of practical things. Perhaps we have been too prone to bay at the moon and sleep in the sunshine. The practical solution of social or economic problems has always been slow and difficult, while the academic discussion of them has always been easy and alluring. It is not strange that in the infancy of our organization we have been somewhat inclined to take the easy way, but the grinding force of an ever-increasing economic pressure has

gradually driven us into the more difficult paths of practical things, things that we can do with our own hands. The Wheat Pool is an outstanding example of this. Is it worth while?

For the past three years the prices of what the farmer sells have been so out of balance with the prices he has to pay, that economic disaster has been rapidly overtaking him. He finds that he can no longer await action by others, but will have to begin to do something to save himself. In trying to analyze the situation he finds that his primary difficulty is in this wrong relationship of prices. He finds that he has nothing to say about the price at which he sells his own products, and nothing to say about the price at which he buys his supplies. In other words he finds that he has no selling efficiency whatever, but that when he goes to buy he is encountered by a very highly developed efficiency on the part of those who are merchandising the things he has to buy. This is true of everything he buys, including labor. The net result is that he cannot get enough for what he produces to pay the cost of production and support his family. He is rapidly falling behind economically, his security is exhausted, and his credit is gone. His security is the only thing that justifies credit, and neither can be restored under the present abnormally wrong relationship of prices. What is he going to do about it?

LOGICAL PLACE TO BEGIN

There are two methods of procedure for his consideration; first, to develop enough buying efficiency to reduce the prices of what he buys to the level of the prices he gets through inefficient selling; second, to develop enough selling efficiency to raise the prices of what he sells to the level of the prices of what he has to buy. The first is not practicable, even if it were desirable, except perhaps as supplementary to the second. While buying efficiently is important, it is not primary in the solution of the present economic problems which the farmers are facing. So it would seem that the logical place for the farmer to begin the solution of his economic problem in a practical way is to begin to develop his own efficiency in the salesmanship of his product. This will involve a long and difficult process, and success can be achieved through his own efforts only.

In undertaking to develop the efficient marketing of Alberta farm products, there can be little question but that wheat is the logical one to begin with. It represents more cash value than any other one product, and is in proper form to go on the world's markets as it passes out of the hands of the producer, without any manufacturing process. Being imperishable, it can be kept indefinitely should there be a serious over-production. If the farmer through a thoroughly mobilized and sustained effort can establish an efficient system of selling his own wheat, he can do the same with other products until all are included. If he cannot do it with wheat, how can he hope to do it with any other product? He can succeed if he will, but the work is up to him, and the reward will be his if he succeeds. The loss will be his if he fails. Success will mean economic freedom and prosperity. Failure will mean economic slavery and misery. He can take his choice. He

will get what he pays for, and he will pay for what he gets.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION

During the past year, political bossism has reared its head from the miasmal swamp-lands of political partyism, and issued a pleading call to the free citizenship of Alberta to return to its infected domain. Little heed was paid to this call. The host of Alberta citizens who in 1921 broke away from the thralldom of party bossism that for generations has herded the masses of citizens in party slave-pens, may not yet fully appreciate the responsibilities imposed on them by their new-found freedom, and may have no well defined ideas as to how they are going to use that freedom, but they have no intention of voluntarily returning to party servitude. Even among those who had not definitely broken their political shackles, the call was largely unheeded. Enthusiasm remained steadily at zero. Leadership was scarce and shyer than it was scarce. Nothing is more discouraging to a prospective leader than to have no prospect of a following. The mighty uprising collapsed, and about all that is left is a blind drummer or two, who see nothing, and hear only the noise of their own drumming.

In the vicious assault that was launched against the present Alberta Government, facts have been perverted, difficulties defined as wrong-doing, and criticism prostituted to vicious indictment. In fact no effort has been spared to discredit the Government in the minds of the people. This has not been done by citizens who have merited the confidence of the people by their sincere and consistent efforts to make conditions better by revealing the whole, simple truth, because of the saving power of truth. Nor has it been done because this Government is worse than other Governments have been, or than another Government elected some other way probably would have been. It is doubtful that the personnel or the actions of the Government had anything to do with it. The whole attempt was evidently staged because the present Government does not represent the reactionary forces that have controlled the political party system from the beginning.

No sane person would claim that the present Government is perfect, or that it has not made mistakes, and no sane person expected perfection. This Government represents the first effort of the people in control of their own political activities, and it is the Government's first experience. While this is true, the Government has no cause to be ashamed of honest comparison with any which has preceded it, and the people have much cause to be encouraged by their first effort. It should be held responsible for its mistakes, and in no wise exempt from criticism. But he who criticizes for the purpose of creating confusion in the minds of the people, and to retard their efforts in the development of higher and more efficient citizenship, is an enemy to the people he is trying to confuse, and unworthy of the rights of citizenship. He is a spiritual confusionist and a social reactionary.

FIGHT IS AGAINST THE SYSTEM

The present Government, whatever its faults or imperfections may be, represents an effort on the part of the people

to break away from the old system and create a new one. Not because the old system is old, but because it is not satisfactory. And while the reactionary forces of partyism have waged their war more directly against the Government than against the system, in reality their fight is against the system. While it is true they have called it some ugly names and made derogatory general statements concerning it, when it comes to a fair and frank discussion of the underlying principles of the two systems, and their relative merits, there has been profound silence. They have never given any logical reason why we should expect satisfactory results from unorganized citizenship broken up largely on imaginary differences into warring camps, each under the leadership and control of professional politicians, a very small per cent. of whom have even tried to remain true to the people's interests, and these few have found it impossible to get satisfactory results under the party system. The reactionary forces have never given any logical reason for believing that the people under systematic organization, controlling and guiding their own political activities, selecting their own leadership and their own representatives, could not hope for better results than they have achieved under the old system. In fact they give no logical reasons, and viewed in the light of history we should expect none.

In the fight between autocracy and the people, autocracy has never deemed it necessary to give reasons. In the people's long struggle for the right of the franchise there were only spurious reasons given for the opposition to their efforts. Why should we expect anything except spurious reasons for the present opposition to the people's efforts to use their franchise more intelligently and more efficiently?

It always has been purely a matter of force, and perhaps will be to the end. It might be questioned whether or not the political party system is autocratic, but surely there can be no question that it has always been subservient to autocracy. The people are rejecting this system, and why shouldn't they? They have given it a fair trial. They have changed from one party to another, built new parties and federated existing parties. In fact they have long and laboriously tried to get satisfactory results from the old system, but failed, and now they want to try something else.

CONFLICT IS IRRECONCILABLE

In 1921 the organized farmers of Alberta did try something else. They organized a system whereby they believed they could eliminate political control by professional politicians. This they believed would remove one of the greatest barriers to real social progress, and bring the autocratic and democratic forces into more direct contact with each other, and each force into the open. The conflict between these two forces is irreconcilable, and the sooner the division between them is clearly defined, the better it will be.

Democracy can never hope to succeed so long as its forces are led and controlled by the servants and emissaries of autocracy. It must select its own leaders and control its own forces. These leaders must be wisely chosen, dependable and capable. This involves the development of higher citizenship capacity both on the part of the people and their leaders, the people in selecting their

leaders, and the leaders in giving faithful and efficient service. This is a slow process, and can only succeed through thorough organization of the masses, and systematic team work between them and their leaders. To this end the U.F.A. took action in 1921.

We are told the movement cannot succeed. We are told this by emissaries of autocracy, the professional politicians. We do not profess infallibility in prophesying the future, but we believe it can succeed. We know that it has not been thoroughly tested and that the people have not yet proven their capacity to carry on a sustained democratic effort, but we believe that both the system and the people will stand the test. We know that while the old party system, with many years' test, has proven a success from an autocratic standpoint, it has proven a dismal failure from a democratic standpoint.

They say that we are on a narrow selfish basis, and therefore not democratic. This sounds fierce, but will not bear analysis. We fully recognize the fact that the primary and irreconcilable division between social elements is that between autocracy and democracy, and that all democratic elements must be mobilized into one working force. The farmers of Alberta recognize themselves as one element of this larger democracy, and are making every effort to put themselves in the best possible position to find other elements of that greater force, and to be found by them. We have gone about it in the only way we know. If there is another and a better way, we would like to know it.

Will anyone claim that the old party system is a better way than ours to mobilize democratic forces? In its entire existence all those whose interests are democratic have never been drawn into one party, and those whose interests are autocratic, drawn into another. There is no reason for believing that this alignment of forces will ever be accomplished under that system, even should the effort be continued for a thousand years. The autocratic strength of the old party system lies in its adaptability in dividing democratic forces and ruling them.

If the autocratic forces had had the voting strength that the democratic forces had, they would have segregated and mobilized that strength fifty, if not one hundred years ago. Continued domination by the autocratic classes depends entirely on the continued division and consequent inefficiency of the masses. It is no wonder that when the masses begin to move intelligently and systematically in the mobilization of democratic forces, autocracy takes fright and begins to move in opposition, and put forth every effort to arrest their progress.

The overthrow of class domination by the masses represents a distinct phase of social development. This development has begun, or is beginning. It can not be accomplished in a day, a year, or even in a generation. It can not be done by listening to the vicious criticisms of the enemy. Neither can it be done by stupid criticisms and fault-findings on the part of those who should be workers. It can be done only by patient, persistent hard work, backed up by determination and guided by horse sense.

While activities will be staged primarily in the economic and industrial field, they must necessarily be carried on also in the political field. Economic justice and political integrity must move to-

(Continued on page 14)

Province of Alberta Has Suffered from "Too Much Politics and Too Little Business," States Greenfield

Premier at Annual Convention Describes Era of Extravagance Which Preceded Advent of U. F. A. Government, and Economies Since Effectuated—Discusses Co-operative Marketing—U. F. A. Stands the Test—"If We Are to Attain to Good Government We Must First Attain to Good Citizenship"

I come to you representing the Government which you placed in charge two years ago. That was the result of a desire to better conditions in Alberta, not for the farming population alone, but general conditions, and particularly political conditions. We entered political life in this Province for what good we could put into it, and not for what we could get out of it, and so long as that spirit underlies our political effort, whether this Government survives or whether it does not survive, the political influence of the U. F. A. will live and it will be to the good.

IRRESPONSIBLE CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT

There is one question particularly that I want to deal with this afternoon: the statement that is being made by more or less irresponsible parties in this Province, and to some extent reiterated in the public press, that this Government is failing to carry out its undertaking to administer the affairs of this Province, insofar as it is able to do so, in a careful and economical and business-like way. In other words, the statement is freely bandied around that this Government is an extravagant Government and one of the most, if not the most extravagant that we have ever had in the Province of Alberta.

When the Government took office, the task was undertaken at the most difficult time in the history of the Province. I need not enumerate to you all the conditions since a year or two before the war, following on until after the war to the period of deflation. You have been through the mill and you know what it meant to you, and what the conditions were when this Government took over. We had been living through an era of free spending, free loaning, and free borrowing. By individuals, by corporations, and by municipalities and also by Governments as well. This was the general economic condition when we took over office. What was the financial condition?

RETRENCHMENT POLICY BEGINS TO BEAR FRUIT

In 1921, the year in which we assumed office, the net bonded debt of this Province was \$57,212,000. In the last year of the previous Government's period of office, they borrowed—entirely new borrowing, no refunding—\$17,000,000 to be expended in that year. That meant this—that during the next

FAITH IN U. F. A. PRINCIPLES AND CONFIDENCE IN U. F. A. GOVERNMENT

Premier Greenfield's address to the Annual Convention of the U. F. A., on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 15th, is given in full below. The Premier received a rousing reception from the assembled delegates. Later in the week a resolution, in the following terms, was unanimously adopted by the Convention:

"Whereas, the present Alberta Government has been severely and, we believe, unjustly criticized during the past year, and,

"Whereas, the election of this Government was made possible by the organized leadership given to the people of the Province by the U. F. A., and we believe that through no other method could a Government so representative of the people of the Province have been elected, and we believe that this method represents the most practical and democratic method of carrying on elections that has so far been devised, and,

"Whereas, we believe that the present Government has handled the affairs of the Province more economically and efficiently than any of its predecessors, and that it is in the best interests of the Province that this method of electing representatives, both Provincial and Federal, be continued until some better system of conducting elections be devised, therefore be it

"Resolved, that we reaffirm our belief in the principles of the method adopted by the U. F. A. in conducting political activities, and also our confidence in the Provincial Government, and be it further

"Resolved, that we urge the Government to continue its efforts to administer the affairs of the Province in the most practical and economical way possible, and that we pledge it our continued support to this end."

year, in preparing our budget, we had to make provision for an extra million dollars of interest charges, and we had to find ways and means of doing it, if we possibly could, without increasing taxation. The result of it, you know. We finished up the year with a heavy deficit. We finished up again last year with a deficit, and I will deal with these matters a little later on. We expect some deficit this year, but I do want to say this, that the policy of economy and retrenchment which this Government initiated is now beginning to bear fruit, and the position of the Province is slowly but very surely working back again to a sound financial position. I am not in a position to disclose to you the present position; that must be laid before the Legislature in due course.

In 1922, the first year that we had charge of the finances of this Province, we reduced capital borrowings to \$8,567,000; in 1923 to \$5,800,000; it looks as though we are coming down in our capital borrowings at any rate.

TOO MUCH POLITICS—NOT ENOUGH BUSINESS

Before I had sat in my chair as Premier for one month, I had come to this one clear conclusion, that the business of Alberta had suffered from too much politics and not enough business. (Applause.) Let me give you another slant on it. From the years 1914 to 1921 the cost of Government in the Province of Alberta increased 153.4 per cent. I want you to get those figures. During the same period our population increased 9.17 per cent. In other words, your expenditure went on without any check whatever, your population practically stood still, and your tax-paying ability during the last few years of that period very materially decreased.

These figures tell a plain, simple story. They say in the plainest possible language, that the Government of this Province had been caught in the very whirlpool of expenditure that was passing through the Dominion. The Province had been living beyond its means. We had to get back to the basis of cutting our coat according to our cloth, we had to reduce our capital borrowings, our current expenditure, and as rapidly as may be, without becoming panicky, without undue disturbance of existing services, but in a steady, orderly, business-like way work ourselves back to a sounder financial



PREMIER GREENFIELD

footing. These figures, ladies and gentlemen, explain to you more clearly than I could in any other way, why we had to cut our school grants, why we had to reduce our school inspectors, why we had to reduce the number of our public health nurses, and the other various reductions which we had to make during the past session of the Legislature. Not because we wanted to do it, not because these services were not valuable, but because we could not afford to pay for them. And the sooner the people of Alberta realize these facts, the better it will be for the Province.

And notwithstanding the statements of my political friends of the opposition, notwithstanding the statements which you see published in various places in the press, we are gradually working back and making very fair progress indeed at it, to that sounder financial footing which I have just mentioned to you. It cannot be done in one year, nor can it be done in two.

WHAT THE ACTUAL FIGURES SHOW

In 1922, for the first time in the history of the Province of Alberta, the expenditures in every department at the end of the year were below the estimates, and in the aggregate the reduction was \$712,210. Still further reductions in 1923. Since we took office in 1921 the staff at the public buildings has been reduced by 186 employees, with a saving of over \$288,000. In the telephone department, the number of employees was reduced by 386, a decrease in the pay roll of 31.8 per cent., with a net saving of \$429,000 a year in pay roll alone. (Applause.) In the railway department, which carries a comparatively small staff, we made \$20,000 reduction in the pay roll. In all, a reduction of the annual pay roll since August 31, 1921, of \$737,000 a year. And this, ladies and gentlemen, is the extravagant Government.

I want to tell the gentlemen who are good enough to criticize this administration in the terms in which they do, that they do not know what they are talking about. (Applause.) And I want to tell them one other thing, that this is the first Government in the history of the Province that could go out on the public platform, quote figures such as that, and stand behind them prepared to prove them. I say that we are cutting down expenditure and this Province is in a healthier state financially today than for a good number of years.

And I don't want to tell tales out of school, but I have just come back from Eastern Canada, from the big financial centres, and I want to say this, that I didn't find any criticism of extravagance of this Government down where the money comes from.

VICIOUS PROPAGANDA ON TAX RECOVERY ACT

Now another matter. We had a very active and a very vicious propaganda emanating from some source in this Province with regard to the Tax Recovery Act. For I made it my business, while in the East, to make it perfectly clear to my own mind and satisfaction that it did not emanate from Eastern Canada. Statements were made on the platform in this Province that the Government of this Province were confiscating seven million acres of land from the farmers. We were floating a loan at the time—and this is the effect of

some of these misstatements—for nine million dollars of refunding. The effect of that propaganda was to practically hold up that loan until I could prepare a statement over my own signature and send it to every bond house in Canada and the United States. That is the "public spiritedness" of some of the propaganda that we have to meet. What happened? What are really the facts of the case?

Under tax recovery, as most of you know, the time expires in the middle of October, I think; an extension of time was given until the first of December. As the first of December rolled around, it became perfectly apparent that the farmers could not get their grain out to meet their liabilities by the first of December, so we decided, the Government decided, that as far as Improvement Districts were concerned, we would lift no caveat, and we have not taken title to a single acre of land. We suggested to the municipalities that they follow the same course, and practically all of them agreed. And today we have made the best year's tax collection in the history of the Province, with what I believe to be an absolute minimum of hardship.

MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

This Government are of the opinion that in the past years there has been too much attention paid by Government agencies to the development of production to the neglect of the marketing end, the all-important end of the agricultural business. We have given very careful consideration and study to marketing and transportation problems. We did not accept nor agree with the position taken by our predecessors in office, that the questions affecting transportation and freight rates were not a matter for the Province to deal with or interest itself in, that they were a matter entirely under Federal jurisdiction. We have spared no effort, we have employed on our staff a freight rates expert whose whole time is devoted to studying and watching developments in freight rates affecting the people of Alberta. We intend to continue that work and to devote our attention to co-operative marketing. I was going to say I was delighted, but that doesn't express my feeling—I am more glad than I can tell you that notwithstanding the handicaps which had to be overcome and in a very short period of time that the Province of Alberta at least, if not the other Provinces, has been able to get under way at least to make a start upon the co-operative contract marketing of grain.

THE WHEAT POOL MATTER FOR CONGRATULATION

I think it is a matter for real congratulation that we have in operation in this Province today a Wheat Pool. We have given that all the assistance we possibly could give, the advice of Mr. Brownlee was very freely given, any assistance we could give to you was given to that cause. Because we believed, implicitly believed, in co-operative marketing as a very important factor in the solution of the farmers' difficulties at the present time, and for the matter of that, for all time. We have also been developing a co-operative marketing service for seed grain. It must have been a source of gratification to every farmer in this Province to note the successes which were achieved at the Chicago Ex-

hibition by Alberta farmers. This Province is particularly adapted for growing the very highest standards of seed grain and after looking carefully into it the Minister of Agriculture has completely convinced me that there is a possibility, without any very great difficulty at that, of developing a market for seed grain, standardized seed grain, in the Province of Alberta. We started it last year. We put through an amount of grain, not very much. But we have seed grain offering today, far beyond our capacity to handle, and we have a market offering for practically all we can get. If this business develops, as we hope it will, the logical course will be a farmer-owned and controlled marketing service. Until that time, we are quite prepared to do everything we can to nurse it along, encourage and develop it, in order that that final goal might ultimately be reached.

SAVING OF \$1.64 PER HUNDRED ON POULTRY

The same thing with our poultry. Christmas week I made it my business to go over to the poultry plant and look it over and see the quality of stuff we were putting out, and to look the whole organization over. I was quite satisfied with it. We had some few thousand turkeys there we were finishing, three cars on the track coming in. There was a carload from a station down east of Edmonton, a full carload loaded alive, under the agency of the Government. There was a shipment of live poultry came in the same day from that same station, graded and shipped by experts. Do you know the difference it made, just \$1.64 per hundred, which means almost 1½c on your poultry to start with, by shipping it alive and in carload lots. These are the points you want to remember.

BROKE MARKET SEVEN CENTS A POUND

I believe some people think—and they have a perfect right to their opinions—that they can do better shipping direct, by carload lots; but just as soon as you begin to increase your agencies you increase competition. Another case. We had been feeding our market carefully, sorting our stuff, sending a certain type of poultry east to Montreal for Jewish trade, a certain grade to lumber camps, sorting it out, dressing and crating it, nursing every market, feeding it just what it wanted, moving all this poultry clear out of the Province so as to hold the home market as high as we could hold it, and then just as we had got the thing coming our way in the Vancouver market, along came two local organizations with two carloads, not fixed up quite as well as ours, shipped into the Vancouver market, and they broke that market seven cents a pound. Just as soon as you get away from the one or two selling agencies nursing a market, expert men studying that market, finding it exactly what they need, and somebody outside thinking they can do better—I am not complaining, I am simply pointing out what it may have the effect of doing; it is just like you going into a store to buy a suit of clothes, prepared to pay a certain price; the man wants to sell you three suits and you will get the other two at your own price. Just the case of the wheat marketing over again. It brings you right back to the central question. One man can sell the product of fifty thousand farmers to far



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better advantage than they as individuals can sell their own.

THE U. F. A. HAS COME THROUGH

I am very much gratified indeed to see this fine attendance at the Convention. You know there have been people going around telling doleful stories about the U. F. A., trying to lead you to believe that it was down and out. In my judgment the organization has come through the trying time and come through it well. The spirit of it is unbroken, and I am satisfied in my mind that it will go on; but above all things, don't neglect the educational work right in your own home Local. If we are to attain to good Government, we must first attain to good citizenship. And I know no better way to do it than to sit down with your fellows and study and read and get to know the problems which are facing the country of which you are a citizen. We must develop an electorate that will study and become informed on public questions.

It is a very difficult proposition, it is practically an impossible proposition, to build a democracy out of an uninformed electorate. Men cannot register their minds intelligently until they have minds to register. And there is just as great a need today in order that we as a Government and that you as a people responsible for that Government, should realize the responsibilities which you assumed when you put this Government in power, and do everything that you can do throughout the communities in which you live to build up an intelligent responsible citizenship. And then if we get that built up I care not whether this Government lives or goes down, if you have got that citizenship as a foundation your Government is bound to be just as sound as your citizenship. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT WOOD REVIEWS PROGRESS OF WHEAT POOL AND DISCUSSES POLITICAL SITUATION IN EIGHTH ANNUAL ADDRESS

(Continued from page 11)

gether hand in hand. A house cannot be cleansed of disease-bearing germs until all its rooms are cleansed. Neither can a social system be reorganized without reorganizing both the economic and political systems. "Our times are in His hand who saith 'A whole I planned.'" No social system can continue to exist, half democratic and half autocratic.

The United Farmers of Alberta are trying to contribute to this great work of social regeneration. They have moved in political reorganization, and they are moving in economic reorganization. They have put their hands to the plow. Will they turn back?

So far, they have succeeded as well as they had any reason to hope. They have demonstrated what can be done in the vigor of their youth, but not what can be accomplished by the strength of developed maturity. Will they go on in that development guided by sanity and wisdom, working, achieving, until their efforts are rewarded with success, or will they retire from the field exhausted by their first effort, grumblingly but submissively to resume the burdens of servitude, hoping that eventually some philanthropic autocracy will lift the burdens from their shoulders and set them free.

If you cannot withstand the jungle chatter of the jungle people, you will turn back to the jungle and add your

chatter to the jungle confusion. If your souls have sickened at that chatter and are filled with a sincere desire for harmony and order, you will keep steadfastly to your course. The choice is yours. The reward of success will be yours. The punishment for failure will be yours. Make your choice.

CONDEMNNS "FAKE" PLANS TO "HELP THE FARMER"

Strongly criticising certain proposals advanced by financial and other interests in the United States, for the purpose of "helping the farmer", "Co-operation", the official organ of the Co-operative League in the republic, declares that the benefits to be obtained from these offers of help from interests which have been largely responsible for bringing agriculture to its present serious position, are largely illusory. Most of the nostrums and cure-alls which the farmer is advised to adopt, by those whose interest it is to prevent him from obtaining a position of real independence, are worthless, in the opinion of this paper, which says:

"When wheat was \$1 a bushel bread was five cents a loaf. When the price of wheat went up to \$2 bread went up to ten cents a loaf. Now wheat has been down to the pre-war price for several years, but the price of a loaf of bread stays around ten cents. There is an old saying, 'What goes up must come down'. But there is a financial yeast that raises bread, and it stays raised.

"The farmers during the war, by means of patriotism, pounding and palaver, got the price of wheat boosted to \$3 a bushel. That high-priced wheat did the farmers more harm than good. They know it now. The bankers got the money, and the next year the farmers got deflation as a present from the bankers.

"Most of the people in the United States are not farmers. They all eat bread. The eight and ten-cent loaf is the price they are still paying for that crop of \$3 wheat that was raised half a dozen years ago. That crop of wheat has been bought and paid for ten times already by the consumers. And they are keeping on paying for it. But the farmer does not get the money. He grows poorer every day.

"Who gets it? Ask 'Ward, the bread king'. The bread king is a new kind of potentate. He has just been created, crowned and placed upon his throne. They are everywhere now—these bread kings. They are one of the glorious products of \$3 wheat. The freight rates on wheat and flour are regulated, but there is no regulation of the price of the baker's loaf. Its maximum is the blue sky.

"Now the farmers are astir to get the price of wheat again raised. The Government is being implored to regulate the price by buying the surplus, by subsidizing the farmers, by imposing a higher tariff, or by some other equally fatuous means. The farmers have not yet learned that the Government is run in the interest of the trading business—trafficking in commodities and credits. And if any of the things the farmers want done are done, the advantages will flow into the pockets of somebody else besides the farmer. The farmers will get results only as they try to solve their problems by their own co-operative efforts without the aid of Government."

Alberta Has Taken Definite Lead in Fight for Better Conditions

Central Board of 1923, in Report to Convention, Discusses Work of the Past Year

At the beginning of the year just closed, there was an unfortunate, pessimistic attitude of mind amongst our members, which could not but reflect on the organization itself. In part this was a natural result of the backward swing of the pendulum, after the wave of enthusiasm which swept the farmers of the Province in the year 1921. The impetus of this reflex action has about spent itself, and we may now look for the next forward movement, but it has left its mark on the year's work of the U. F. A.

At the meeting of the Central Board held just prior to the last Annual Convention, certain recommendations were made as to the systematizing of our finances and the institution of an annual budget. As the old Board was again elected to office, with only two changes, we were placed in a position to immediately commence putting these recommendations into effect, and a Finance Committee was appointed to prepare a budget.

Careful Estimate Made

Being fully alive to the seriousness of the situation confronting the organization, a carefully considered and conservative estimate of our year's revenue was first made.

A systematic allotment of the estimated revenue was then made for each district to cover the field work during the year.

An appropriation was also made to cover the expenditures of each department in the organization.

Certain salary reductions were found necessary, and your Board commenced its work in this direction by making a substantial cut in the per diem allowances of its members.

The services of an expert office manager were secured for the purpose of making a survey of the office, with a view to co-ordinating the work of the different departments, and paring down expenses to a minimum consistent with efficient service. As a guide in this work he was given a copy of our budget. A very excellent report was received from this gentleman, and following his recommendations the Executive found it possible to make further reductions in the staff, which had already been considerably lowered in numbers. It was also found practicable to reduce the office space occupied, and effect a further saving in rent.

In making our estimate of the year's income, we based it upon the receipts from membership fees in the year 1922. As the 1922 membership figures were not reached, our expectations were not realized. Nevertheless, we are able to show a balance on the right side of the account, as you will see from the financial statements which will be presented. This result has been achieved by very careful management and in spite of the unfortunate loss caused to the association by the failure of the Home Bank.

It should be a source of congratulation that for the first time in the history of the organization, in spite of the severe

The report of the Central Board of the U. F. A. for 1923 is printed in full below.

handicaps, we have a balance on the right side of the ledger, from the operation of 1923.

During the summer Mr. Tompkins, for many years a valued member of the Central Office staff, left our service to take up residence in another Province.

We must also record the loss of the services of our Secretary, Mr. Higginbotham, who resigned in November last in order to engage in other fields of activity. The best wishes of the Board and of the association accompany both of these gentlemen in their new sphere. The Secretary's retirement left a vacancy in the organization which has not yet been filled. Coming at the time when preparatory work for the Annual Convention was about to be commenced, we were rather severely handicapped; but Miss Bateman, for many years an efficient member of the staff, has very ably carried out the secretarial duties. Our President and Vice-president have kindly undertaken the supervision of the work of the office, since Mr. Higginbotham's retirement; and the thanks of the association are due to Messrs. Wood and Scholefield, and Miss Bateman, for the smooth way in which the work of the office has been kept running.

Owing to the very heavy crop marketed in Alberta this last season, and the slow and difficult work of cutting and threshing it in many districts, many of our Locals were less active than usual during the fall months. The thoughts and energies of the farmer were naturally almost wholly centred on harvesting his crop, to the exclusion of U. F. A. matters. But we are glad to report that in the last two months receipts of membership fees have been steadily growing. This still continues, and the prospects are bright for a considerable volume of dues coming forward during the early months of 1924. In fact at the moment of writing, approximately \$600 have already come in in payment of 1924 fees.

Work of the Board

Three meetings of the full Board have been held during the year, and five meetings of the Executive Committee.

At the initial meeting of the Board, it was decided to organize systematically for the year's work by the appointment of standing committees, each charged with the duty of dealing specifically with a department of the association's activities.

A General Marketing Committee was appointed, with sub-committees on Grain Marketing, Meat and Livestock Marketing, and Co-operative Marketing. A Committee on Transportation, and another on Banking and Credit were also appointed; besides the customary Newspaper, Legislative and other committees of the Board.

Organization

Whilst a certain appropriation was

made by the Board for Field Work in each of the districts, owing to conditions during the year the actual organization work done has been somewhat limited. Much of the work accomplished has been upon a voluntary basis, and in some of the districts nothing whatever has been charged to the Central Office for organization expenses. The outlay under this head has therefore been very modest.

1921 Deficit Fund

An appeal was made to the Locals and members to assist in liquidating the heavy deficit which remained on our books from the year 1921. The splendid response to this appeal has been very gratifying as showing the real, practical interest of the members in the association's welfare.

"U. F. A." Newspaper

We are pleased to report that during the past year the newspaper has been able to show that it is upon a paying basis. Whilst it may not have been able to quite come up to the expectations of some of our members, we nevertheless feel that it has been a source of strength to the association.

Last Year's Resolutions

In accordance with our established custom, the resolutions of last year's Convention were duly presented to the appropriate authorities.

The action taken on the resolutions pertaining to Dominion matters was embodied in a report published in "The U. F. A." of October 1st, from Mr. H. E. Spencer, secretary of the Alberta Progressive members.

Those dealing with Provincial matters were duly presented to the Provincial Cabinet, and a lengthy and detailed report from the Provincial Government covering the action taken in connection with the various matters embodied therein, is in the hands of the Secretary; with the exception of the resolution dealing with the organization of a Provincial bank. This matter will be dealt with in a special report presented by the Government.

Our request for the establishment of a Federal Loan Department was embodied in a motion introduced by Mr. Robert Gardiner in the Special Committee to enquire into Agricultural Conditions last session. It was recommended to the House, but no action by the House of Commons has as yet resulted.

Wheat Pool

At the last Convention resolutions were passed calling upon the Dominion Government, or in the alternative the Provincial Government, to establish a Wheat Board, with compulsory powers. This was not found possible, but the year has seen the inauguration of a Voluntary Contract Wheat Pool in Alberta, as the result of the initiative taken by your Board through its Marketing Committee and the special Wheat Pool Committee subsequently appointed. This subject is more fully dealt with in a report which will be presented from the Marketing Committee.

Constitution

The Constitution was revised in part at the last Convention. The work was

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not completed; but in accordance with the instructions of the Convention, the Board incorporated the revised portion with the unrevised portion, so as to co-ordinate the two.

Conclusion

We believe that during the past year Alberta has taken a definite lead in the fight for better economic conditions. She has taken a step forward along sound

and practical lines. In doing this, she has attracted the attention of the whole civilized world, and her future progress will be carefully followed not only by our fellow farmers but by every community, urban as well as rural. It behooves us, therefore, to live up to the high standard we have ourselves established, and retain our place in the vanguard in the march for improved conditions.

Have Been Factor in Cattle Market for First Time in Ten Years

C. Rice-Jones Declares Market Prices of Cattle Have Been From a Quarter to Half a Cent Higher, Owing to Influence of Cattle Pool—Outlines Development to U. F. A. Convention

"The past season, since the organization of the Cattle Pool, is the first in the ten years in which we have been in the cattle business, selling your cattle on commission, that we have been a real factor on the market," stated C. Rice-Jones, vice-president of the United Grain Growers, Ltd., in an address before the Annual Convention of the U. F. A. in Edmonton on Thursday, January 17th.

"We cannot force the prices up just where we would like them, but we are in the position that we say now lots of times what we want for these cattle, and what we will take for them. Before, we were told by the buyers what they would give us for them, and if we didn't want to take that, what could we do with the cattle? They knew we had to sell on the local market. Now, if the price doesn't suit us, we can ship the cattle out. There is not a shadow of a doubt that for weeks at a time the market price has been from a quarter to a half a cent higher on all the cattle than it would have been had we not been operating the Pool."

Thirty Per Cent. in Pool

From July 1st to December 31st, Mr. Rice-Jones stated, approximately 87,500 head, or about thirty per cent. of all the cattle marketed in Western Canada, had passed through the Pool, which had received slightly better support from Manitoba and Saskatchewan than from Alberta. One of the big factors in the business, he said, was the ability, through the Pool system, to have the cattle sorted out and sold in uniform lots. When stockers and feeders became aware that the Pool was in a position to do this, the management expected to have a practical monopoly of their business.

"We have demonstrated to our own satisfaction," he declared, "that the Pool system is the only way in which the spread between the producer and the consumer can be narrowed. There are expenses in connection with getting started and developing connections that are rather heavy the first year, but I can assure you that we are very well satisfied with the progress that is being made. If the Pool never distributed a dollar it would have been worth hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to the farmers in the Western Provinces owing to the circumstance that it is a factor in the market. There is just as big an opportunity, and I am not sure if there is not a bigger opportunity—more room for improvement—in the cattle business even than in wheat; and I will

agree that there is a great deal of room for improvement in the wheat."

Why Weekly Basis Abandoned

After reviewing the development of co-operative shipping of cattle, from its early beginnings under the direction of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Company ten years ago, to the present time, Mr. Rice-Jones stated that the Cattle Pool had been inaugurated on February 5th, 1923. Experience had revealed many objections to the weekly basis. In the fall of the year, on a downward market, there had been too good an opportunity for those opposed to the pooling system to rig the market and force the Pool to come out with a loss. On July 1st the Pool had been placed on a yearly basis, when it was decided to advance the full market price; and on that basis the Pool was now operating.

"The opposition to the Pool," said the speaker, "has been extremely bitter on the part of those people who have been privately dealing in livestock."

FOUNDATION WORK HARDEST

The process of shaping a nation's productive and commercial activities, or even a large part of them, is likened by the "Co-operative News," Manchester, England, to rolling a huge rock downhill. At first, the task will be one of prodigious difficulty, and the rock may appear too big and too solidly fixed to move.

The foundation work of propaganda and education in co-operation is the hardest. Old fashioned traditions, prejudices and habits are obstinate things to deal with; but if the movement towards co-operation can once be set going it will gather speed and force from its own increasing vitality.

Something like this has taken place in Denmark, where co-operative ideals have been successfully applied to agriculture. There has been marked improvement in the technical methods of farmers since they learned to work together, to share their experiences, to organize technical instruction, and to increase the use of co-operatively bought fertilizers. The organization of the co-operative dairies and bacon factories has practically enabled the farmers to control the markets in these products, no less than 85 per cent. of the dairy products of Denmark being now marketed through co-operatives.

Retail co-operative stores in Denmark are found principally in rural centres, and are often the sole stores in the district.

Professor Jens Warming, a Danish economist, is quoted as saying that the co-operative spirit has now permeated all sections of the Danish people.

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CONVENTION REJECTS PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH BANK OWNED BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 5)

"Be it further resolved, that it is our desire that the members of the Provincial Legislature should use whatever means within their power to urge the present Provincial Government to make application for a Dominion charter and commence operations as soon as possible, and."

"That we further recommend that the Government take seriously into consideration the proposed credit reform proposals as outlined in the article which appeared in the last issue of 'The U. F. A.', January 15th, 1924, and,"

"Be it further resolved, that we recommend that they take into consideration resolution No. 27 as it appears in the printed convention program for the establishment of credit society."

The last two paragraphs of the resolution were deleted on motion from the floor, the chairman having pointed out that it was desirable that the resolution should deal with one subject only, and that the matters referred to in these paragraphs should be considered separately.

Reform of Urgent Importance

John Egger, of Sullivan Lake, spoke briefly on the resolution, declaring that financial reform was of urgent importance. A similar resolution had been passed at the last Convention, he said. It had been suggested that an effort should be made to educate the Provincial members. "Some you can educate and some refuse to learn," declared Mr. Egger.

Carl Axelsson, of Bingville, spoke briefly in favor of the resolution, while A. L. Blue, a director in the Ribstone U. F. A. Provincial Constituency Association, contended that it would be unwise for the Government to "put the soft pedal on the banking question." "The proper thing for us to do is to take this up with our local members," said Mr. Critchlow of Barrhead.

"Pick Up a Bank Cheap"

"I think if you wait a bit you may be able to pick up a bank cheap," declared F. W. Smith of Sedgewick, humorously. "We have banks enough in Alberta, and they own 90 per cent. of the country. Why create another? I think it would be the height of folly to insist on starting a bank at this time. We have had too much credit."

Ald. East Speaks

Ald. James East, of Edmonton, who had assisted in the preparation of the resolution, was invited to speak and addressed the Convention at length, setting forth the case for reform of the financial and credit system. With the aid of a number of diagrams, constructed from banking and official sources, he described the operation of the banking system of Canada, and the "pyramiding" of currency and credit upon the narrow "gold basis", stating that this basis had long been discarded in practice. Mr. East's address was closely followed by the Convention. "The banking system is a splendid one", he said, "that is why we want to share it. We are advocating that we do co-operatively what other people are doing, only that we eliminate the interest burden. The banks made the laws. They are usually called in and asked what they want. This investigation in Ottawa is the first time that the banks were really put on the grid and made to admit that the origin of this circulating credit was by the process of making loans to the people that stood behind it, and that is why we want to start our own bank and stand behind it, and supply money at cost, and not at the extortionate rate of interest charged by the bank."

William Irvine Opposes

"If I were Premier of Alberta and I were asked to carry the terms of this resolution into effect, I would not do it," declared William Irvine, M.P. "I would resign, and say, 'Go ahead and do this yourselves,' and I should be sure that if you attempted it, you would come a cropper."

"It gives me considerable pain to be on the opposite side to my friend Mr. East,"

said Mr. Irvine, "for I agree fully with what he has said in regard to the basis of our credit system, and to the need for reform. I am opposed to the creation of a Provincial bank because I believe its establishment would stand in the way of our securing real redress."

Mr. Irvine contended that a Provincial bank organized upon the same basis as the existing chartered banks would give exactly the same financial results as these banks gave, because it would be bound by exactly the same conditions. Government ownership was a doubtful remedy for anything.

While the Provincial Government might own the bank, the Dominion Government would exercise control over its operation, and would tie the hands of the Provincial Government. The bank would be under the necessity of operating under a Bank Act which was really the creature of the bankers. "You would own a bank controlled by your enemies."

Should Consider Report

Referring to the report received from the Alberta Government, Mr. Irvine said that he believed that they had inquired into the matter in all sincerity. They had given their answer. "You owe it out of common respect to your Government and to your own intelligence at least to listen to their arguments before re-passing this resolution," he declared.

Mr. Irvine called attention to the fact that the bankers of Canada were seeking a return to the gold standard. If any such return were made, the volume of credit which the Provincially-owned bank could issue would be very definitely restricted.

Change in Policy Needed

The resolution did not call for any change of a fundamental character. It called for a change in administration, not in financial policy, and it was a complete change in financial policy that was needed today, if society were to be preserved. "You cannot gather grapes off thorns, or figs off thistles, or cast out devils by Beelzebub," Mr. Irvine said that to establish a Provincially-owned bank would be like placing a new engine on an old track—its destination would be exactly the same as that of any other engine, so long as the direction of the track remained the same. For this reason, "I would fight your Provincial Bank as sincerely as I would fight your Bank of Montreal," he declared.

Prices Problem Vital

In all financial and credit problems, three main factors must be considered—credit, purchasing power and prices—and there could be no real solution of the problem if any of these factors were left out of consideration. Any financial proposal that disregarded the question of prices touched only a part of the problem, and would not bring the desired result.

If a bank owned and controlled by the Alberta Government were established, it would be faced with four possibilities. (1) It might issue the same volume of credit as the other banks, at the same rate of interest, in which case it would function as they do now. (2) It could issue more credit, at the same rate of interest, in which case there would be inflation causing increased prices all round; (3) it could issue less credit at the same rate of interest in which case the tendency would be towards deflation; or (4) it could issue more credit at a lower rate of interest than the existing chartered banks. As to the fourth possibility, Mr. Irvine said that if credit were to be issued at a lower rate of interest, a lower rate would have to be given on deposits, under present conditions. But if satisfactory interest were not given on deposits, where was the Government going to get them? Where was the farmer who would place his money in an Alberta Government bank without interest, if he could get interest on his money from a bank say in Saskatchewan?

Practical Difficulties

Going on to deal with what he considered to be practical difficulties in the way of the establishment of a Government-owned bank in Alberta, Mr. Irvine said that three ways of getting capital would be open to the Government. One would be to sell stock; an-

(Continued on page 20)

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The United Farm Women of Alberta in Annual Convention

By Miss J. B. Kidd

On Wednesday, January 16th, the United Farm Women of Alberta opened their Ninth Annual Convention in the lounge room of the G. W. V. A. Hall in Edmonton. There were in attendance ninety-one accredited delegates, fourteen officers and a large number of visitors. Following the singing of "O! Canada!" in unison with the U. F. A. delegates, the Convention was officially opened by the president, Mrs. M. L. Sears. The invocation was offered by the Rev. Mr. Garritt, Chaplain of the G. W. V. A.

Nominations for chairman of the Convention resulted in the election of Mrs. R. B. Gunn by acclamation.

At the request of the Convention, the chairman appointed as the Convention committees, Mrs. W. Ross of Millet, Mrs. Dave Christie of Strathcona, Mrs. Winnifred Baker of Medicine Hat, on the Resolutions Committee; Mrs. F. E. Wyman of Baintree, Mrs. A. E. Postans of Heath, and Mrs. Alice Benson of Nightingale, on the Credentials Committee; Mrs. Jean Field of Kinuso, Mrs. A. H. Warr of Waskatenau, Mrs. A. F. Zaczshowski of Strome, on the Order of Business Committee.

Mrs. Sears Retires From Presidency

Mrs. M. L. Sears presented her report as President, which included a description of the conference with the Alberta Government on the resolutions passed by the 1923 Convention and of the annual meeting of the Canadian Council of Agriculture. Mrs. Sears spoke at some length on the prohibition question, remarking that "a change of sentiment cannot be made in the course of two years or five or more. It has been formed and crystallized for ages. Back of the physical habit of drinking has

been the thought in favor of drinking down through countless generations. This thought or sentiment must first be changed before we see results. This is a process that only the travail of time can work out." In concluding her address, Mrs. Sears expressed her decision to discontinue her work as U. F. W. A. President. "This does not, however," she said, "end my active interest in the U. F. W. A. To your incoming President I pledge my loyalty and support and trust her associations with you all may be as pleasant and profitable as mine have been."

The President's report was followed by the report of the First Vice-president, Mrs. R. B. Gunn, who stated that in addition to attending all U. F. W. A. Board and Executive meetings and meetings of the U. F. A. Board, she had accepted as far as possible any invitations received to speak at Locals and District Associations.

Prospects Never Brighter

"Looking back over the year," said Mrs. Gunn, "we find that it has been a disappointment from an organization standpoint in that the financial stringency has been reflected in our membership. In spite of the fact that women are well trained in effecting petty economies, many of our most loyal women have been unable to find the money necessary to pay their membership fees. It is a sad commentary on economic conditions on the farm that this should apply, as it has done, to men and women throughout the Province this year. However, at the close of this year we can also say that never have prospects been brighter for our organization. The closing months of 1923 have been marked by an unparalleled interest in all forms of co-operative effort on the part of the farm women. The growth of the co-operative spirit has been increasingly manifest not only in the larger arena of the Wheat Pool, but also in the many Locals actively engaged in discussion and operation of co-operative marketing of eggs and poultry. Organized farm women are acutely interested in discovering avenues of economic independence through profitable marketing of the small produce which usually falls to their jurisdiction, such as poultry products, dairy products, garden products and small fruits. In fact farm women, with properly organized co-operative marketing machinery, hold an enviable position as potential producers.

Firmer Determination to Present United Front

"With the closing of harvesting operations," concluded Mrs. Gunn, "renewed interest has been apparent in the Local meetings throughout the Province, and it is seen that the farm women are conscious that a testing time has arrived in our organization. They realize opposing interests are concentrating on the breaking down and disintegration of our organized group. With this realization has come a firmer determination on the part of the farm men and women to march forward with increasing strength

towards the goal of our desires, a happy, contented, prosperous rural people, knowing full well that this contentment and prosperity will inevitably be reflected throughout the entire life of the nation. The measure of our success towards this



MRS. M. L. SEARS

Mrs. Sears retired from office after serving as President of the U. F. W. A. from January, 1920, to January, 1924. She was presented with a beautiful necklace by the U. F. W. A. delegates in appreciation of her long and faithful service to the organization.

end for 1924 will be determined by the activities and membership of the Locals throughout the Province. The measure of our success is your responsibility and mine."

The Convention expressed its sincere regret that Mrs. B. F. Kiser was unable owing to illness to be present to give her report as Second Vice-president.

(To be continued)

THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA IN SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

(Continued from page 8)

Election of President

Addressing the Convention prior to the ballot for President, George Bevington said it was difficult for him to know exactly what to do, as the Convention had not arrived at any decision in regard to one of the questions before it. He had always been a co-operator, and he would urge the farmers to go as far as they could in developing co-operative enterprise. "We shall doubtless fall many times before we are able to walk," he said. Those who had been associated with one another on the Executive had reached a stage where they could work harmoniously while differing in details. The progressives must be tolerated, and all the farmers must be held together in one organization. There might be a progressive element which was over-anxious for progress.

C. H. Harris

Mr. Harris declared that if elected his whole energy would be devoted to making the organization one hundred per cent strong. He had done all he could to create



MRS. R. B. GUNN,
President U.F.W.A.

the present Government. "If you want a great philosopher to be able to guide the Government," said he, "don't elect me." The president of the U.F.A., he thought, should not be in politics. Mr. Harris said he had no criticism of the press to offer at this time.

W. J. Jackman

W. J. Jackman said he had been in the movement since 1906, and continuously in office up to the present time. The most important issue of all was that of banking and credit, but until the farmers had decided in their own minds what should be done, they should not expect their officers to support any particular plan. Co-operative marketing was the most urgent matter pressing for solution at this time. The Wheat Pool should not be allowed to weaken the parent organization. The work before the President of the U.F.A. was sufficient to take all of one man's time.

H. W. Wood

All of the candidates received a good hearing. When President Wood rose to speak he was received with general cheers. His policy, he said, had been defined in part in his Annual Address. The aim of the leadership of the U.F.A. should be to be as constructive as possible in all that was undertaken; and to avoid as far as possible public criticism of what others were doing, where this might create confusion. It was possible, said Mr. Wood, in some cases for men to make themselves popular by destructive criticism of others.

"There is only one office more important than that of President of the U. F. A., and that is the office of President of the U.S.A.," declared Mr. Wood amid cheers and laughter.

Dealing with a suggestion that had been made, that one man should not occupy the dual position of President of the U.F.A. and chairman of the Wheat Pool, Mr. Wood referred to the fact that the Provisional Directors of the Wheat Pool were fully aware that he was President of the U.F.A. when they asked him to take the chairmanship, and there was no suggestion that he should give up the presidency—"and," added he, with emphasis, "I have no intention of giving up the chairmanship of the Wheat Pool."

"Interlocking Directorates"

There was a real objection to "interlocking directorates" in cases where public interest might conflict with private interests, and such interlocking might prove a social menace. "If the directorate of a great financial institution, handling the public's money, were, through influence in other directorates, borrowing from it, such a situation might under certain conditions become menacing. "But," asked Mr. Wood, "are the Wheat Pool and the U.F.A. so antagonistic to each other that the same man cannot serve on the directorates of both?" Two other farmers' institutions in Alberta some years ago began to drift apart. If the U. F. A. and the Wheat Pool drifted apart both would suffer serious injury. If, however, they could be prevented from drifting apart for two years, they would during that period begin to grow together. "You wound one, and the other bleeds," said the President.

"My policy as President of the U.F.A. will be what it has always been, to follow constructive things, and not to make a spectacular show, and to lay all emphasis on the practical things which we can do ourselves." This, he said, did not mean that vision was not required. But it was necessary to begin to build up from solid foundations, toward the realization of ideals, not to begin with the upper storeys.

"No matter what you do," was Mr. Wood's final statement, "this organization is the child of my heart and the hope of my life, and no matter what happens, I will do what I can for it, because without one shadow of a doubt this today is the greatest organization of the common people that is located on the outside of this earth."

A Question of Minutes

At the conclusion of Mr. Wood's speech H. MacKenzie asked that a portion of the minutes of the Central Board's June meeting, at which plans for the Wheat Pool were discussed, be read to the Convention as

(Continued on page 22)

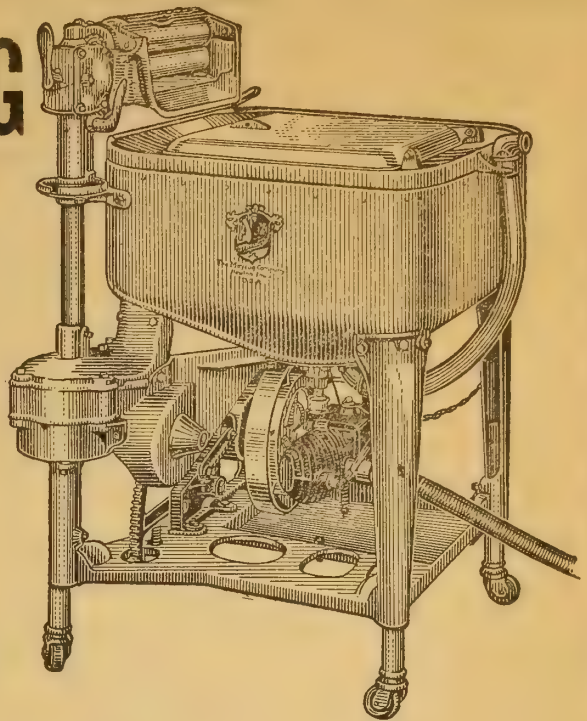
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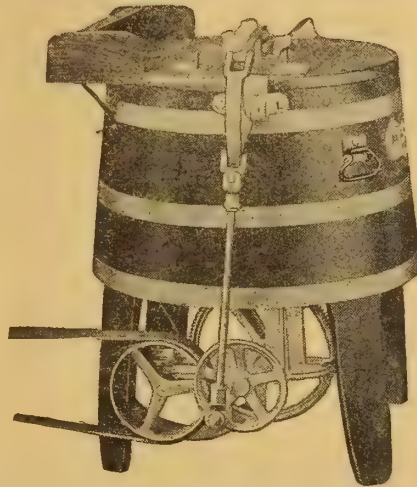
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CONVENTION REJECTS PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH BANK OWNED BY ALBERTA GOVERNMENT

(Continued from page 17)

other would be to borrow money from the bankers; a third would be for the Legislature to vote the money. There were obvious reasons why it would be difficult to sell the stock, and the bankers would not be eager to loan money to a prospective competitor, and the only remaining possibility was to raise the money by way of taxation. Owing to the prevailing conditions, moreover, the new bank would have to begin to do business with "financial cripples" thereby jeopardizing its chances of success.

The Province, Mr. Irvine pointed out, would be compelled in the near future to seek a loan on the money markets of the world. Undoubtedly, if this Province-owned bank were being started, the financial credit of the Province would be "impaired" in the eyes of those who control the money markets, though the real credit of Alberta would of course not be affected. But if as a result of this action, the price bid for Alberta bonds were lowered, Alberta might lose by this means many times as much as could be obtained through banking operations for years to come.

Greatest Curse on Back of Humanity

Though he was utterly opposed to the resolution, Mr. Irvine declared that there was "no greater curse on the back of humanity than the present banking system." Those who desired fundamental credit reform could not afford to face the likelihood of failure in such a proposal as this. "If we fail, it will discourage all our efforts to obtain financial reform for a long period to come."

"You have a Government honestly trying to give you what you want," said Mr. Irvine in conclusion. "For this reason you ought to be the more careful what you ask of them."

P. W. Billwiller remarked that nobody had indicated what practical benefit would be obtained by the individual were the proposed bank to be established. "Will the farmer without assets be able to get any more credit?" he asked. After 10 or 20 years the people of Alberta might have the satisfaction of seeing a bank like the Bank of Montreal built up, but was that worth while? "The bank won't pay our debts, or lend us more money, so what's the use?"

Following Mr. Irvine's address, the "previous question" was moved from the floor of the Convention, many delegates appearing anxious to bring the matter to a vote. Mr. Gardiner, who was in the chair, pointed out that a number of other speakers wished to have an opportunity to participate in the debate. The Convention accordingly adjourned, at a late hour on Tuesday evening. The remainder of the discussion took place on Wednesday and Thursday.

Wednesday's Debate

Rice Sheppard, speaking on Wednesday afternoon, in favor of the resolution, said that there was no desire to press for immediate action.

N. P. Finnemore of Winterburn declared, "We want one thing, and one thing only—public control of the public credit—and this is the first step."

C. H. MacFarquhar, while not pressing for the passing of the resolution, thought that some action should be taken. It had been said by a high authority that "the hand that signs the bank draft rules the world." Reginald McKenna, former British Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Alfred Mond, and others, had expressed unorthodox views on the subject of credit. The problem of production had been solved. There was no need to inject increased efficiency into the industrial machine; what was needed was increased purchasing power to insure distribution.

George Bevington Speaks

Mr. Bevington, in the course of an address on the resolution, discussed the principles of banking and urged the necessity for reform. There had been a marked change in the attitude of the public towards

this question in recent years, he said, and it was becoming increasingly recognized that "the financial evil is the great root evil out of which all other evils grow." If the people desired to substitute the motive of service for the motive of profit in commerce, they had got to own the system.

Referring to the publication of an article which he had written on "A Provincial Bank", and which was published in the January 15th issue of "The U. F. A.", Mr. Bevington said that there had been delay in the publication of this because the Government's report on the resolution passed last year had not been received, and was not received until the Convention of 1924.

The speaker cited detailed statistics, showing that on the basis of the gold reserves, currency and credits had been built up to many times the amount of the reserves, and he presented a careful and instructive analysis of the existing system. What he and others sought was to put an end to the monopoly, by powerful centralized interests, of the people's credit.

At this point Ira D. Taylor, from the floor of the Convention, intervened to remark, "We are all agreed on the analysis of the credit system; we want you to show that this Provincial Bank is a practicable thing at present." Mr. Bevington replied that the resolution offered only one plan; and if another plan could be produced, he would gladly accept it. "All I want," he declared, "is an endorsement of the principle of using our own credit."

It was desired to use the Federal Treasury Board as a bank of re-discount, securities being presented, and notes being obtained in exchange. The Provincial Government said that on account of certain amendments this was now harder to do than formerly. It would be still harder, perhaps, after the next session of the Federal Parliament.

Referring to the resolution, Mr. Bevington said, "I do not say that it is absolutely feasible, but we can make it feasible."

Speaking of the capital required to enable a Government-owned bank to operate on a considerable scale, Mr. Bevington said that there were ways of increasing this such as had been adopted in Great Britain during the war. There was no reason why the people should not do for themselves what the banks had been able to do. As to the matter of interest rates, which had been referred to by Mr. Irvine, the benefits of a Provincially-owned bank could be obtained without necessarily lowering these. The public could certainly pay to public officials, doing work for them, what was now paid to officials over whom they had no control.

Mr. Bevington's address was continued on Thursday afternoon, when he discussed Mr. Irvine's arguments against the resolution. In reference to certain statements made by the speaker, a delegate on the floor of the Convention called attention to the fact that Mr. Irvine had had to leave for Ottawa on Tuesday evening and was therefore not in a position to reply. Mr. Irvine, Mr. Bevington said, was just as sincere in the attitude he had taken, as he was when he made the demand at Ottawa for an inquiry into the basis, function and control of financial credit. No one doubted his sincerity, but believed (it would appear) that any institution that might be set up was only going to delay the arrival of a period of misery that society was bound to go through. The speaker suggested that Mr. Irvine's expressed distrust of Governments logically would lead those who heard him to infer that he believed in anarchy. "I don't believe he believes in anarchy at all; I believe he thinks there is a virtue in Governments and that Governments can do things," Mr. Bevington added. Mr. Irvine was mainly interested in general principles of which he was an able exponent. But he did not know how much capital was required to start a chartered bank. He gave \$250,000 as the figure, whereas the act called for \$500,000.

Mr. Irvine had stated that Government-owned institutions were not so efficiently conducted as those which were not Government-owned. Against this Mr. Bevington cited the post office, the educational system, the national railways, which had been taken over because private ownership proved inefficient, and the control of various industries by the Government during the war.

Referring to Mr. Irvine's illustration of the engine, which, running on the same track as others reached the same destination, Mr. Bevington declared that if one engine were stopped at every station, and toll taken from it, while in the case of the other "nobody gets his fingers into the goods," there would be a great deal of difference in efficiency. As to the suggestion that Governments did not reduce costs of business operations, Premier Greenfield himself had submitted figures showing that the Alberta Government had been able to make reductions.

Governments and Efficiency

"Mr. Irvine says, 'If you don't change the whole system you can change nothing.' What does that mean?—Revolution?" asked the speaker.

The Government had indicated that the obstacles in the way of the establishment of a Provincial Bank were insurmountable. What was wanted was a knowledge of the whole situation. There was not a man who did not want credit reform if he could get it. It was not desired to force on the Government action which they felt they could not take.

Speaking in opposition to the resolution, S. S. Sears said that if an attempt were made to carry it into effect, the security of the Province would be more and more impaired. The resolution, if passed, would be tantamount to a vote of want of confidence in the Government, and would mean an election on the subject of the Provincial Bank, which would divide the forces of the U. F. A. and be the finest thing possible for the enemy. Mr. Bevington's suggestion that Mr. Irvine did not know what capital was required to start a chartered bank was altogether unfair. As was well known, the capital required was \$500,000, but of this only \$250,000 was required to be paid up.

President Wood

"We have been hearing a great many experts on this subject," said Mr. Wood, "but if the proposed bank were established and brought into operation, I have not been able to see where I could get a dollar's worth of benefit out of it."

"Mr. Irvine's address," said the President, "was the best address on the Provincial Bank question that I have ever heard." The establishment of a bank by the Province, Mr. Irvine had declared, would not touch the fundamental problems of finance. "I believe," said Mr. Wood, "that not only is the establishment of this bank not fundamental to the solution of the financial problems, but also that the financial question is not fundamental to the solution of our present social problems."

Weakness in Industrialism

Under the present industrial system conditions could never be made right. To suggest that they could be rectified by re-organizing the money system, was comparable to suggesting that a car, whose engine was in bad repair, could be made to run by changing the gasoline. It was evident that the farmers were in a bad state financially. Was this because they could not contract more debts, or was it because they could not pay the debts they had already contracted? The reason they could not pay their debts was because the price they received for their produce was not sufficient to pay the price of the products they had to buy. Money was master of industrialism, not because of the inherent strength of money, but because of the weakness at present in the industrial system.

The price of farm products, when the period of deflation came, was deflated 50 per cent. in six months. Why were not other products—finished products—similarly deflated? The reason was that the farmers had no power to resist deflation, while those who manufactured and sold finished products had. In proportion as the power to resist was developed, deflation would be held back, but not by the manipulation of money. To vary the metaphor of the car with engine trouble, industry was like a freak vehicle, half of which was ox-cart, and the other half automobile—agriculture being the ox-cart. This kind of vehicle could never run, and a magician who declared that the trouble was in the use of the wrong kind of gasoline, did not indicate the remedy.

There were, said President Wood, things that could be done—and done by the farmers themselves—toward the ending of the present economic unbalance. The most important step so far taken in this direction, was the organization of a Wheat Pool. When the farmers had as much to say about the price of what they sold as others had to say about the price of the things the farmer had to buy, much would have been accomplished towards the restoration of the necessary level of prices. When the primary producer had developed sufficient salesmanship efficiency, the industrial system as a whole could be made efficient and money forced to serve industrialism.

Such a resolution as the one before the Convention, Mr. Wood declared, was liable to lead to disaster, under the conditions now prevailing in the Province. If the farmers really want it, the only sane course would be to wait until conditions had been readjusted. In view of the situation as outlined by the Government in their report, made after careful investigation, the passing of the resolution would be equivalent to a vote of want of confidence. "Are we justified in passing such a vote? Be careful what you do. If you do not understand what you are doing and why you are doing it, don't do it. No farmers' organization ever before survived political action. Today in Alberta, after taking political action, our organization is stronger than it has ever been before. For God's sake, don't run it blindly headlong on to the rocks!"

The Substitute Resolution

At the conclusion of the discussion George Bevington asked leave to present a substitute resolution. This was accepted by the chairman, and its adoption moved by A. L. Blue. It was in the following terms:

"Resolved, that in order to maintain unity, co-operation and co-ordination of effort along the lines of the resolution of the Committee on Banking and Credit, we deem it advisable to postpone action upon the resolution until such time as action for or against the proposals shall have the support of a substantial majority, and thus produce the best results from the combined efforts of all our membership;

"And further, that the Board be instructed to appoint a committee to co-operate with a committee of the Provincial Government to study the subject and prepare a report with recommendations to be presented to the next Annual Convention."

Mr. Bevington contended that if one of the factors in industry were not efficient, the problem of industry could not be solved, and that it would be impossible to obtain proper adjustments so long as there was a lack of balance in the financial system. It would be impossible to run a perfect machine without gasoline. "You will find your Wheat Pool at a certain stage no more successful than your Grain Growers' Grain Company," he said.

President Wood, speaking on the substitute motion, said he would like the Convention to have an opportunity to express its opinion on the merits of the question of the Provincial Bank itself.

The vote was then taken, the substitute motion being first defeated by a decisive majority, and the main resolution itself receiving little more than a handful of votes.

NOTICE TO WHEAT POOL MEMBERS

Wheat Pool members can do much to expedite the work of the Head Office of the Pool and avoid possibility of confusion in the records by instructing Elevator Operators and others to always write the member's name in the same way in which his contract was signed. For instance where a Grower signs his contract "B. F. Brown" his Growers' Certificate should be filled out in the name of "B. F. Brown" and not Bruce Brown or Fred Brown, etc. Insist on legible writing. Also, in case of new contracts, PRINT the Grower's name in the space provided on the contract.

Will all readers of this paper please act on this suggestion and pass the idea on to other Pool members who do not take "The U. F. A."

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Ask That "The U.F.A." Be Published Weekly During the Session

Resolutions on Official Organ Discussed by Convention—Members Desire Enlargement—The Question of Revenue.

A desire for the enlargement of "The U. F. A." and its publication, when possible, as a weekly, was expressed at the Annual Convention, and several resolutions bearing upon this matter were dealt with. The first of these, which was carried unanimously, asked that those responsible "enlarge the paper as their finances, circumstances and correspondence would justify."

The Committee's Report.

The Newspaper Committee's report presented by Mr. Scholefield, the Vice-president, showed a surplus for the eleven months ending with the financial year of the Association, November 30th, of \$476.80, a reserve of \$531.22 having been set aside to provide against possible losses due to the failure of the Home Bank, in which "The U.F.A." funds were kept, and it was pointed out that but for this necessity the surplus for the period would have been \$1,008.02, which, it was stated, compared very favorably with the surplus of \$914.96 earned by the paper during the previous year.

The report also stated that the total subscriptions paid to the paper were approximately the same in amount as the expenditure in 1921 in the preparation of election pamphlets, directors' bulletins, etc.; that these reached only a limited number of members, through directors and Local secretaries, and that they were issued spasmodically, whereas the paper, at about the same cost, was able to multiply many times the quantity of reading matter sent out by the Association. Instead of a few, practically the whole membership was thus reached. It was stated that since Mr. Higginbotham's resignation the committee has placed upon the editor responsibility for the departments formerly under Mr. Higginbotham as business manager.

With reference to the suggested enlargement, it was pointed out by the editor that this was entirely dependent upon increased revenue, and that as large a paper as finances would permit was already being published. One additional issue per year would almost swallow up the surplus.

"I believe that if we put more space into this paper we should charge ourselves a little more, and I am willing to charge myself \$10 a year to scatter the same kind of matter all through the Dominion, the same as the Manufacturers' Association do," said one delegate. "We will get results without giving more instructions, by giving the paper more financial backing." Another suggested that subscription of \$2 should be paid to the newspaper, over and above the \$2 paid to the Association. Carl Axelson declared, "We must provide the finances. The only way is for us to dig up a subscription that will give us as large a paper as we want."

Some discussion took place on the subject of increased space for correspondence. The editor stated that letters were being used, wherever possible, and that an invitation to members to contribute had been issued by the Central Board in June last.

A motion by Carl Axelson that the paper be issued weekly, and that \$1.50 should be devoted to the paper was lost, after it had been pointed out that this would mean an increase of \$1 in the membership fee.

Ask Weekly During Session.

The following resolution was carried: "In view of the biased reports being disseminated by the daily press of the Province concerning public affairs, both Federal and Provincial;

"Be it therefore resolved, that we request our U. F. A. Executive to have the U. F. A. paper published weekly, if possible, during the session of the Legislature, that a special reporter be placed in the House at that time, and that a full and unbiased report be published therein."

The mover of the resolution quoted statistics of cost, to the effect that a small sum per member per month would be adequate to defray expenses.

The Question of Revenue

The following resolution was then moved and seconded:

"Whereas, this Convention has gone on record as desiring an increase in the size of our official organ, 'The U. F. A.', but has made no provision for increased revenue,

"Whereas, the present revenue will not permit of any increase in size, or publication of the paper as a weekly;

"Therefore be it resolved, that this Convention recommend that the Central Board devise ways and means of increasing the revenue obtained by the paper from the membership, and we suggest for the Board's consideration the following plan:

"That all Federal, Provincial and District Associations, and Locals, be urged to purchase non-interest bearing stock in 'The U. F. A.', in return for which a certificate might be issued, similar to that given for Life Membership."

Upon a vote being taken the resolution was lost.

A vote of appreciation to those responsible for the paper was carried unanimously.

Another resolution adopted asked that the report on light railways presented by Mr. Stevens be published in the paper; and another recommended that District and Constituency Associations or Boards of those Associations should, immediately following their conventions or Board meetings, send in their resolutions for publication in "The U.F.A."

A further resolution adopted, specified that the amount left over from the Convention pool of railway transportation expenses, should be spent in providing a more comprehensive report of the Convention in "The U.F.A." than could otherwise be given.

Oliver's Question Is Quickly Answered by Alberta Members

During the course of an address before the U.F.A. Convention, Premier Oliver of British Columbia asked "where the Progressive members were," when, in 1922, he was in Ottawa in connection with the subject of freight rate reductions on the Western route.

U.F.A. members of the House, who were asked to reply, responded, D. W. Warner M.P. and Alfred Speakman, M. P. being first called upon. Mr. Speakman pointed out that the question of Western rates was not before the House at that time, but only the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement, for the restoration of which they were fighting, while Mr. Oliver was seeking to interest the Railway Commission in the Western rates.

"We took the ground in the House

that we would get what we could at that time, in fighting for what was actually before the House," said Mr. Speakman. "The matter of Western rate reductions was not before Parliament; otherwise we would have fought for these reductions too."

The Convention applauded loudly when Mr. Conner, one of the delegates, remarked, "I would suggest to Mr. Oliver that he send a solid delegation of Progressive members to Ottawa from B.C. at the next election—if he does we shall be able to get all that we need."

Opposed Restoration of Agreement.

J. T. Shaw, M.P., who spoke later, declared that when Premier Oliver was in Ottawa, the Progressives were standing "shoulder to shoulder in support of the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement," which was the only safeguard the Prairie Provinces had against the prohibitive raising of freight rates, and that they won in the face of the railways, and Premier Oliver himself. The complaint of British Columbia on Western rates was not within the scope of the inquiry. Mr. McGeer, one of Premier Oliver's ministers, according to official records, was suggesting at this time that "the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement be suspended or abrogated." The restoration of the agreement saved over \$25,000,000.00 to Western farmers on grain shipments in one season.

ALBERTA ASSEMBLY OPENS—CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING AND P. R.

A session of the Alberta Provincial Assembly which promises to be fruitful in legislation for the encouragement of co-operative marketing enterprise, and in other measures of first class importance, including provision for proportional representation and the single transferable vote in one-member constituencies, as outlined in the U. F. A. Declaration of Principles, was opened by Lieutenant-Governor Brett in Edmonton on Monday, January 28th.

THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA IN SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

(Continued from page 19)

there was some suspicion as to what these minutes contained. Mr. MacKenzie was invited to come to the platform and examine the minutes himself, and he selected a passage in which President Wood expressed serious doubt as to the possibility of organizing the Pool in time for the 1923 crop. "Lack of doubt at that time," the President remarked, "could have been founded only on ignorance of the situation."

The result of the ballot was announced later in the afternoon, by R. Cates of Oyen, in behalf of the scrutineers, it being stated that Mr. Wood was elected on the first count. The detailed figures were not given at the time, but these were subsequently published in the press, and showed that Mr. Wood received 429 votes, Mr. Bevington 44, Mr. Harris 12 and Mr. Jackman 11. On motion of Mr. Jackman the election was made unanimous. The scrutineers were Rufus Cates, Oyen; A. W. Miller, Rockyford; J. K. Sutherland, Hanna; G. E. Roose, Camrose and J. C. Buckley, Gleichen.

(To be continued)

THE CREDIT PROBLEM

"Purchasing Power and the World Problem," is the title of a valuable pamphlet on the financial problem issued by William Irvine M.P. within the past few weeks. Mr. Irvine declares that "failure to distribute goods is the chief cause of the industrial chaos of modern times," and that to assure proper distribution a new credit system must be devised. Copies of the pamphlet, price five cents each, can be obtained from the U.F.A. Central Office.

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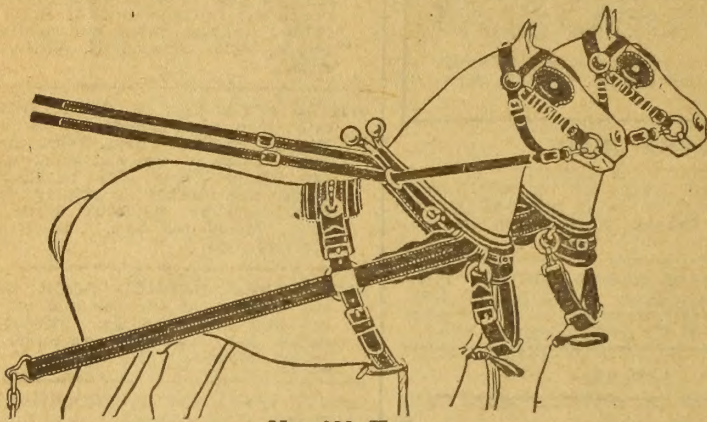
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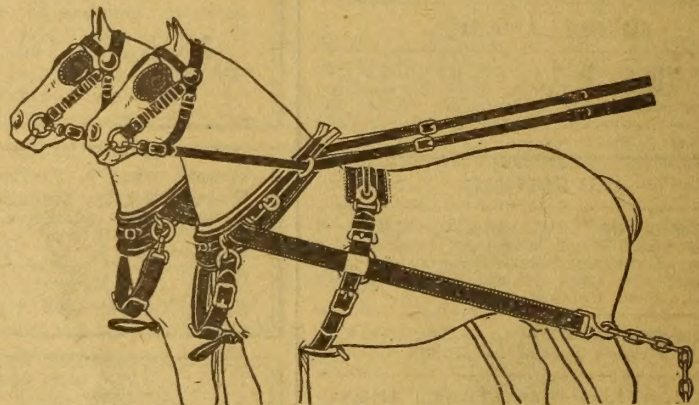
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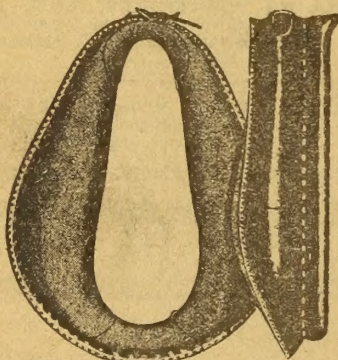
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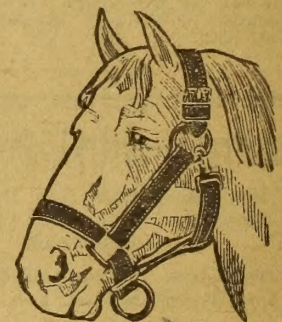
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